Appendix A.
Definitions and Questionnaire: 1995

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Introduction. The definitions in this appendix are basically the same for both the American Housing Survey National sample and the American Housing Survey Metropolitan sample. Definitions for some items have changed over time. For a discussion of historical changes, see appendix C. The definitions in this appendix represent the situation at the time of this survey. To help find topics in this appendix, readers may want to use the Subject Index at the back of this book.

The American Housing Survey was conducted by personal interview. The survey interviewers were instructed to read the questions directly from the questionnaire. The definitions and explanations given for each subject are, to a considerable extent, drawn from various technical and procedural materials used in the collection of the data. These materials helped the field interviewers to understand more fully the intent of each question and, thus, to resolve problems or unusual cases. Additional explanatory information has been added to this portion of the text to assist the user in understanding the statistics.

Sample size. The sample size shown in this report is the unweighted count of the actual sample cases. See appendix B in this report for a more detailed explanation on sample design.

Medians. We estimate each median from the printed distribution. If there are 10 million homes of a particular type, the median is the 5 millionth, or halfway point of these homes. Therefore, if 4 million homes are below $400 rent, then the median is the millionth home above $400. Finally, if the next interval printed in the book (from $400 to $449), has 3 million homes, the median is assumed to be one-third of the way through the interval (at $417). Actually, this technique overestimates medians by a few percent since most homes cluster at the bottom of their intervals. The clustering happens because landlords ask for rent in round numbers, like $400, and people give answers in round numbers, like $20,000 income, or 40 years old. There is one special case in calculating medians: For numbers of people or rooms, we assume an interval like 3 means 2.50 to 3.49, so one-third of the way through is 2.83. This method is used rather than just saying that the median is 3, in order to give a more detailed picture of the distribution. We do not show the median at all if the distribution is estimated to have fewer than 25 sample cases (50,000 homes in the national report, smaller numbers in the metropolitan reports).

Comparability with 1990 Census of Population and Housing data. The concepts and definitions are essentially the same for items that appear in both the 1990 census and the national reports.

There is a major difference, however, in the time period of the recent mover classification. In the American Housing Survey, recent movers are households that moved into their unit during the 12 months prior to interview, a period of 1 year or less. In publications for the 1990 Census of Housing on mover households, the time period was from January 1, 1989, through March 31, 1990, a period of 15 months or less.

A variety of data on mortgages and homeowner properties are presented in publications from the Residential Finance Survey. Differences in the concepts and definitions in this survey and the American Housing Survey publications include the following: the basic unit of tabulation in AHS is the housing unit; in Residential Finance publications, it is the property. All the data in AHS are provided by the occupant; in Residential Finance publications, mortgage is reconciled with responses from the lender.

In the American Housing Survey, units are classified as new construction if constructed 4 years or less from the date of interview. In publications from the 1990 Census of Housing, units are classified as new construction if constructed in 1985 through 1990.

Data on poverty level in the 1990 Census of Housing do not contain the income of household members unrelated to the householder. In the American Housing Survey, data on poverty level include the income of all household members whether or not they are related to the householder.

Income data in the American Housing Survey are based on income for the 12 months prior to interview for those household members 14 years and older. The 1990 Census of Housing income data are for calendar year 1989 and for income of household members 15 years and older.

Differences between the American Housing Survey data and the 1990 census may also be attributed to several other factors. These include the extensive use of self-enumeration in the census in contrast to personal interview in the survey; differences in processing procedures and sample designs; the sampling variability associated with

the sample data from both the AHS and the census; the nonsampling errors associated with the survey estimates; and the nonsampling errors associated with census data.

Comparability with Current Construction Reports from the Survey of Construction. The Census Bureau issues several publications under the general titles, ''Current Construction Reports.'' The data for these reports are primarily from the Survey of Construction.

The Survey of Construction consists of approximately 8,300 permit-issuing places throughout the United States. The reports from the survey contain current data on housing starts and completions, construction authorized by building permits, new one-unit structures sold and for sale, characteristics of new housing, and value of new construction put in place. The concepts and definitions used in this report differ from some of those used in the Survey of Construction. The major difference is that the Survey of Construction shows counts and characteristics of housing units in various stages of construction through completion. The American Housing Survey shows counts and characteristics of the existing housing inventory. Additional differences between the American Housing Survey and the Survey of Construction may be attributed to factors such as the sampling variability and nonsampling errors of the data from the two surveys, survey procedures and techniques, and processing procedures.

Comparability with housing vacancy surveys. There may be differences between this survey and Federal, State, local, and other surveys that present vacancy rates. The differences may be attributed to such factors as differing interview periods, survey designs, survey techniques, and processing procedures, as well as differences in concepts and definitions. In addition, there are sampling and nonsampling errors.

AREA DEFINITIONS

The data shown in this report relate to areas as defined for the 1980 census for urban, rural, farm, and nonfarm; and as of 1983 as defined by OMB for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The area definitions used in this report were not updated to include any OMB decisions after 1983 or the 1990 census results.

Regions. The standard census geographic regions are used in the tables of this report. States contained in each region are as follows: Northeast—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey; Midwest—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota; South—Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; West—Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, and Hawaii.

Places. Two types of places are recognized by the Census Bureau, incorporated places and census designated places as defined below.

Incorporated places. Incorporated places are those that are incorporated under the laws of their respective States as cities, boroughs, towns, and villages.

Census designated places (CDP's). The Census Bureau has delineated boundaries for closely settled population centers without corporate limits. To be recognized for the census, CDP's must have a minimum population. If located in urbanized areas that have one or more cities of 50,000 or more population, CDP's must have a minimum population of 5,000. All other areas except for areas in Alaska and Hawaii require a minimum population of 1,000. The requirements are a population of 25 in Alaska and 300 in Hawaii.

Place size as shown in national reports reflects the place size as of the 1980 census. More detailed information on places appears in the 1980 Population Census PC (1)-A reports.

Urban and rural residence. As defined for the 1980 census, urban housing comprises all housing units in urbanized areas and in places of 2,500 or more inhabitants outside urbanized areas. More specifically, urban housing consists of all housing units in (a) places of 2,500 or more inhabitants incorporated as cities, villages, boroughs (except in Alaska and New York), and towns (except in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin), but excluding those housing units in the rural portions of extended cities; (b) census designated places of 2,500 or more inhabitants; and (c) other territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in urbanized areas. Housing units not classified as urban constitutes rural housing. Information on the historical development of the urban-rural residence definition appears in the 1980 Census of Population report, *Characteristics of the Population, Number of Inhabitants,* PC801-A.

Urbanized areas. The major objective of the Census Bureau in delineating urbanized areas is to provide a better separation of urban and rural housing in the vicinity of large cities. In the 1980 census, an urbanized area comprised an incorporated place and adjacent densely settled (1.6 or more people per acre) surrounding area that together have a minimum population of 50,000. For more information on urbanized areas, refer to the 1980 Population Census PC(1)-A reports.

Farm-nonfarm residence. In rural areas, occupied housing units are subdivided into rural-farm housing (which comprises all rural units on farms) and rural-nonfarm

housing (which comprises the remaining rural units). Occupied housing units are classified as farm units if the sales of agricultural products amounted to at least $1,000 during the 12-month period prior to the interview. Occupied units in rural territory that do not meet the definition for farm housing are classified as nonfarm.

Metropolitan statistical areas. Metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) shown in the American Housing Survey are defined by the Office of Management and Budget. By current standards, as published in the Federal Register on January 3, 1980, an area qualifies for recognition as an MSA in one of two ways: if there is a city of at least 50,000 population, or a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). Except in the New England States, an MSA is defined in terms of entire counties. In New England, MSA's are composed of cities and towns. In addition to the county containing the main city, additional counties are included in an MSA if they are socially and economically integrated with the central county. An MSA may contain more than one city of 50,000 population and may cross State lines.

Primary metropolitan statistical areas. Within the metropolitan statistical areas classified as Level A (population size of 1,000,000 or more), some areas may qualify for separate recognition as primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA's). A PMSA is a large urbanized county, or cluster of counties, that demonstrates very strong internal economic and social links, in addition to close ties to the other portions of the Level A metropolitan statistical area.

Consolidated metropolitan statistical area. A consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA) is a Level A metropolitan statistical area when at least two primary metropolitan statistical areas are defined.

Central cities. Every metropolitan statistical area has at least one central city, which is usually its largest city. Smaller cities are also identified as central cities if they have at least 25,000 population and meet the following two commuting requirements. First, the city must have at least 75 jobs for each 100 residents who are employed. Second, no more than 60 percent of the city's resident workers may commute to jobs outside the city limits. In addition, any city with at least 250,000 population or at least 100,000 persons working within its corporate limits qualifies as a central city even if it fails to meet the above two commuting requirements. Finally, in certain smaller metropolitan statistical areas, there are places with between 15,000 and 25,000 population that also qualify as central cities, because they are at least one-third the size of the metropolitan statistical area's largest city and meet the two commuting requirements.

Selected subareas. Data for three of the largest cenral cities and/or counties in each metropolitan area are shown in chapters 2 through 6 of the metropolitan books under the boxhead column ''selected subareas.'' For a list of the selected subareas in each metropolitan area, see the inside back cover of the metropolitan books.

Selected geographic areas. Data for each county and independent city (in certain states) for which it was estimated that 100 or more interviews occurred are shown in the stub item ''selected geographic areas in table 2-1 of the metropolitan books.

Standard metropolitan statistical areas. The definitions of standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) used in the Annual Housing Survey prior to 1984 corresponded to the 243 SMSA's used in the 1970 census. Except in the New England States, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or ''twin cities'' with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county or counties containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In the New England States, SMSA's consist of towns and cities instead of counties. Each SMSA must include at least one central city, and the complete title of an SMSA identifies the central city or cities.

SUBJECT CHARACTERISTICS

Living Quarters

Living quarters are classified as either housing units or group quarters. Usually, living quarters are in structures intended for residential use (e.g., a one-unit structure, apartment house, hotel or motel, boarding house, or mobile home or trailer). Living quarters may also be in structures intended for nonresidential use (e.g., the rooms in a warehouse where a watchman lives), as well as in places such as tents, caves, and old railroad cars. We count these as living quarters if they are occupied.

Housing units. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, 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 occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and that have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall that is used or intended for use by the occupants of another unit or by the general public. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements (except as described in the section on group quarters). For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible. If the information cannot be obtained, the

criteria are applied to the previous occupants. Both occupied and vacant housing units are included in the housing inventory, except that tents, caves, boats, railroad cars, and the like, are included only if they are occupied.

Group quarters. Group quarters are any living quarters which are not classified as housing units. Institutional group quarters are living quarters occupied by one or more persons under care or custody, such as children in an orphanage, persons in a nursing home, and prisoners in a penitentiary. Noninstitutional group quarters include living quarters such as college-owned and/or operated dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses, nurses' dormitories, and boarding house. In addition, noninstitutional group quarter include any living quarters which are occupied by 9 or more persons unrelated to the householder, or by 10 or more unrelated persons.

Hotels, motels, rooming houses, etc. Occupied rooms or suites of rooms in hotels, motels, and similar places are classified as housing units only when occupied by permanent residents; i.e., persons who consider the hotel as their usual place of residence or have no usual place of residence elsewhere. Vacant rooms or suites of rooms are classified as housing units only in those hotels, motels, and similar places in which 75 percent or more of the accommodations are occupied by permanent residents.

If any of the occupants in a rooming or boarding house live and eat separately from everyone else in the building and have direct access, their quarters are classified as separate housing units. The remaining quarters are combined. If the combined quarters contain eight or fewer roomers unrelated to the householder, they are classified as one housing unit; if the combined quarters contain nine or more roomers unrelated to the householder, or person in charge, they are classified as group quarters. In a dormitory, residence hall, or similar place, living quarters of the supervisory staff and other employees are separate housing units if they satisfy the housing unit criteria; other living quarters are considered group quarters.

Staff living quarters. Living quarters of staff personnel are separate housing units if they satisfy the housing unit criteria. Other living quarters are considered group quarters.

Year-round housing units. Year-round housing units include all units occupied by one or more persons for whom it is their usual residence and all vacant units that are intended by the owner for occupancy at any time of the year. If a unit in a resort area is intended for occupancy on a year-round basis, it is a year-round housing unit, even if vacant.

Homes currently for sale or rent. The data are presented for owner-occupied, year-round URE (usual residence elsewhere), and year-round vacant units. For owner-occupied units, the classification of the unit refers to the current action of the owner. The owner occupant is offering the unit for rent only, for rent or for sale, or for sale only. In addition, the current owner occupant may have made arrangements to sell the unit to a future owner but the final transactions have not yet taken place (sold, but not yet occupied by the leased tenants), or simply not have the housing unit on the market.

For year-round URE's, the classification of the unit reflects the intentions of the owner or manager of the unit. The definition for each category of unit is the same for URE's as it is for year-round vacants. For a list of these definitions, please see the topic ''Vacancy Status.''

Seasonal units. Seasonal units are units that are intended by the owner to be occupied during only certain seasons of the year. They are not anyone's usual residence and include units occupied entirely by persons with a usual residence elsewhere and vacant units. A seasonal unit may be used in more than one season; for example, both in the summer for summer sports and in the winter for winter sports. Counts of seasonal units in this report also include housing units held for occupancy by migratory farm workers.

Population in housing units. Included are all persons living in housing units. Persons living in group quarters are excluded.

Occupied housing units. A housing unit is classified as occupied if a person or group of persons is living in it at the time of the interview or if the occupants are only temporarily absent, for example, on vacation. However, if the unit is occupied entirely by persons with a usual place of residence elsewhere, the unit is classified as vacant. By definition, the count of occupied housing units is the same as the count of households.

Race. The classification of ''race'' refers to the race of the householder occupying the housing unit. The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau does not denote a clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. Race was determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of a person's race. Figures on tenure are given separately for White, Black, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and other householders in table 2-1. The last category includes any other race reported. Detailed characteristics of units with Black householders are presented in chapter 5.

Hispanic. The classification ''Hispanic'' refers to the origin of the householder occupying the housing unit. Detailed characteristics of housing units with Hispanic householders are presented in chapter 6. Hispanic origin was determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of persons living in the unit who were Hispanic or Spanish American. Hispanic persons may be of any race.

Data on Hispanic households shown in American Housing Survey National reports are collected in the 50 States and the District of Columbia, and therefore do not include households in Puerto Rico.

Tenure. A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. Also, a cooperative or condominium unit is owner occupied only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied housing units are classified as renter occupied, including housing units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

Cooperatives and condominiums. A cooperative is a type of ownership whereby a group of housing units are owned by a corporation of member-owners. Each individual member is entitled to occupy or rent out an individual housing unit and is a shareholder in the corporation that owns the property.

A condominium is a type of ownership that enables a person to own an apartment or house in a project of similarly owned units. The owner has the deed and very likely the mortgage on the unit occupied. The owner may also hold common or joint ownership in some or all common areas such as grounds, hallways, entrances, elevators, etc.

Cooperative or condominium ownership may apply to various types of structures including single-family houses, rowhouses, townhouses, etc., as well as apartment units.

Year householder moved into unit. The data are based on the information reported for the householder and refer to the year of latest move. Thus, if the householder moved back into a housing unit previously occupied, the year of the latest move was to be reported; if the householder moved from one apartment to another in the same building, the year the householder moved into the present unit was to be reported. The intent is to establish the year the present occupancy by the householder began. The year the householder moves is not necessarily the same year other members of the household move; although, in the great majority of cases the entire household moves at the same time. The median year householder moved into unit is rounded to the nearest year.

Owner or manager on property. These statistics are based on the number of rental housing units in structures of two or more units with the owner or resident manager living on the property.

Vacant housing units. A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of the interview, unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. In addition, a vacant housing unit may be one that is occupied entirely by persons who have a usual residence elsewhere (URE).

New housing units not yet occupied are classified as vacant housing units if construction has reached a point where all exterior windows and doors are installed and final usable floors are in place. Vacant units are excluded if unfit for human habitation; that is, if the roof, walls, windows, or doors no longer protect the interior from the elements, or if there is positive evidence (such as a sign on the house or block) that the unit is to be demolished or is condemned. Also excluded are quarters being used entirely for nonresidential purposes, such as a store, or an office; or quarters used for storing business supplies or inventory, machinery, or agricultural products.

Vacancy status. Vacant housing units are classified as either ''seasonal'' or ''year-round.'' See definitions of seasonal and year-round on page A-4. Year-round vacant housing units are subdivided as follows:

For sale only. Vacant year-round units ''for sale only'' also include vacant units in a cooperative or condominium building if the individual units are offered for sale only.

For rent. Vacant year-round units ''for rent'' also include vacant units offered either for rent or for sale.

Rented or sold, not occupied. If any money rent has been paid or agreed upon, but the new renter has not moved in as of the date of the interview, or if the unit has recently been sold, but the new owner has not yet moved in, the year-round vacant unit is classified as ''rented or sold, not occupied.''

Held for occasional use. This category consists of vacant year-round units that are held for weekend or other occasional use throughout the year. The intent of this question is to identify homes reserved by their owners as second homes. Because of the difficulty of distinguishing between this category and seasonal vacancies, it is possible that some second homes are classified as seasonal and vice versa.

Temporarily occupied by persons with usual residence elsewhere (URE). If all the persons in a housing unit usually live elsewhere, that unit is classified as vacant, provided the usual place of residence is held for the household and is not offered for rent or for sale. For example, a beach cottage occupied at the time of the interview by a family that has a usual place of residence in the city is included in the count of vacant units. If the house in the city was in the survey sample, the house would be reported occupied and would be included in the count of occupied units since the occupants are only temporarily absent.

Held for other reasons. If a vacant year-round unit does not fall into any of the classifications specified, it is classified as ''held for other reasons.'' For example, this category includes units held for settlement of an estate, units held for occupancy by a caretaker or janitor, and units held for personal reasons of the owner. The ''other vacant'' category includes all housing units held for other reasons.

Time sharing. This item is restricted to vacant housing units, including URE's. Time sharing is a form of ownership in which a single property is owned by multiple owners. Each is entitled to occupy the unit for a limited period of time during a specific time of the year. The number of years of ownership may vary depending on the terms of the contract. Participants in time-sharing ownership usually, but not always, receive a deed of ownership.

Duration of vacancy. The statistics on duration of vacancy refer to the length of time (in months) from the date the last occupants moved from the housing unit to the date of the interview. The data, therefore, do not provide a direct measure of the total length of time that units remained vacant. For newly constructed units that have never been occupied, the duration of vacancy is counted from the date construction was completed. For recently converted or merged units, the time is reported from the date that conversion or merger was completed.

Previous occupancy. The statistics presented are restricted to housing units built in 1980 or later. ''Previously occupied'' indicates that some person or persons not now in the household occupied the housing unit prior to the householder or other related household member's occupancy. ''Not previously occupied'' indicates that either the householder or some other current household member was the first occupant of the housing unit.

Last used as a permanent residence. The statistics on ''last used as a permanent residence'' refer to the length of time (in months) since units that are currently seasonal vacants were last used as a permanent residence, and is measured as of the date of interview. Units that have always been used for short-term or seasonal occupancy, are classified as ''Never occupied as permanent home.''

Rental vacancy rate. The rental vacancy rate is the number of vacant year-round units for rent as a percent of the total rental inventory; i.e., all renter-occupied housing units and all year-round vacant housing units for rent or rented, not occupied.

Suitability for year-round use. For vacant housing units that were not intended for year-round use (i.e., seasonal and migratory), the respondent was asked whether the construction and heating of the housing unit made it suitable for the unit to be occupied on a year-round basis. A housing unit is suitable for year-round use if it is built as a permanent structure, properly equipped and insulated for heating as necessitated by the climate, and if it has a heating system that would be adequate during extended cold periods.

Housing Units Occupied by Recent Movers

Recent movers. Data for recent movers are shown for two categories of movers: Units where the householder moved into the present unit during the 12 months prior to the interview, and units where the respondent moved into the present housing unit during the 12 months prior to the interview. In most cases, the two groups represent the same households.

Present and previous units. The present unit is the housing unit occupied by the householder or respondent at the time of the interview. The previous unit is the housing unit from which the householder or respondent moved. If the householder or respondent moved more than once during the 12 months prior to the date of the interview, the previous unit is the one from which they last moved.

Location of previous unit. These data are shown for units where the householder moved during the past year. The location of the previous unit is reported as being inside the same metropolitan area, and either in the central city(s) or not in the central city(s); inside a different metropolitan area in the same State, in a different State, and in a central city or not in a central city; outside any metropolitan area, and either in the same State or a different State; or in a different nation.

Tenure of previous unit. These data are shown for units where the householder moved within the United States during the past year. The previous unit was owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lived in the unit, even if it was mortgaged or not fully paid for. If the previous unit was a cooperative or condominium, it was owner occupied only if the owner or co-owner lived in it. All other previous units were renter occupied including housing units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

Structure type of previous residence. These data are shown for householders who moved within the United States during the past year. They are based on the respondent's classification of structure type of the previous residence.

Persons—previous residence. These data are shown on table 10 of all chapters for units where the householder moved within the United States during the past year. Data for units where the respondent moved during the past year are shown separately on table 24 of all chapters. All persons are counted who lived at the previous residence at the time of the move, and those who usually lived there but were temporarily away for reasons such as visiting, traveling in connection with their jobs, attending school, in general hospitals, and in other temporary locations. Children, infants, lodgers, servants, hired hands, and anyone else who usually lived there are included. Persons who were staying at the previous residence at the time of move, but who had a usual residence elsewhere were not counted.

Previous home owned or rented by someone who moved here. These data are shown for units where the householder moved within the United States during the past year. Data are shown for the number of households

where the previous home was owned or rented by someone living in the current housing unit and the number of households where the previous unit was owned or rented by a relative or nonrelative other than a current household member.

Change in housing costs. Housing costs include mortgage and rent payment, real estate taxes, insurance, upkeep of place, utilities, homeowner membership fees, land rent, mobile home park fees paid, etc. Comparison is made of the share the householder and those who moved with the householder (from the same place at the same time) actually paid in the previous unit with the share they actually pay in the present residence.

Reasons for leaving previous unit. These data are shown for units where the respondent moved during the past year. The categories refer to reasons causing the move from the previous residence.

Private displacement includes situations in which a private company or person wanted to use the housing unit for some other purpose (to develop the land or building commercially, to occupy the unit himself/herself, to convert the unit to a condominium or cooperative, to make repairs and renovate the unit, etc.).

Government displacement means the respondent was forced to leave by the government (local, State, or Federal), because the land was being used to build a road or highway, for urban renewal or other public activity, because the building was condemned, or some other similar reason.

Disaster loss includes damage by a tornado, storm, flood, earthquake, fire, landslide or other similar occurrences.

New job or job transfer indicates that the respondent moved to begin a new job or was transferred from the previous location to the present location.

To be closer to work/school/other means that the respondent moved because commuting was too far and respondent wanted to live closer to work, school, or some other commuting purpose.

Other, financial/employment related refers to financial or employment related reasons, such as wanting to look for a new or different job, because he/she entered or left the U.S. Armed Forces, established a retirement home, or some other financial/employment reason.

To establish own household means that the respondent left his/her previous residence (parent's home, rooming or boarding house, shared apartment, etc.) to establish own household.

Needed larger house or apartment refers to moves that were necessary because of crowding and not for aesthetic reasons.

Married, widowed, divorced, or separated is marked if the respondent moved because of marital reasons.

Other family/personal related indicates that the respondent moved because of family or personal reasons such as wanting to live closer to relatives.

Wanted better home was marked if the respondent moved because the previous residence was too old, run-down, in need of too many repairs, etc., or if there was nothing wrong with the previous home, but the respondent simply wanted to move to a better one.

Change from owner to renter, or *Change from renter to owner,* indicates a change in tenure.

Wanted lower rent or less expensive maintenance indicates that the respondent moved because the rent (or mortgage) payments were too high at the previous residence or that the taxes or upkeep were too high.

Other housing related reasons includes respondent wanted larger yard, different zoning, wanted a better investment, etc.

Other category includes examples such as respondent wanted a change in climate, neighborhood crime problem, racial or ethnic composition of neighborhood.

Choice of present neighborhood and neighborhood search. These data are shown for units where the respondent moved during the past year. The respondent was asked a three-part question on choice of present neighborhood: (1) if the respondent looked for a house/apartment in any other neighborhood, (2) the reasons why the respondent chose the present neighborhood, and (3) the main reason the present neighborhood was chosen. The distribution for choice of present neighborhood may not add to the total as the respondent was not limited to one response.

Choice of present home and home search. These data are shown for units where the respondent moved during the past year. The respondent was asked a three-part question on choice of present home: (1) if the respondent looked at both houses/mobile homes and apartments, (2) the reasons why the respondent chose the present house/apartment, and (3) the main reason the present house or apartment was chosen. The distribution for choice of present home may not add to the total as the respondent was not limited to one response as to which was better.

Recent mover comparison to previous home. This item is based on the respondent's comparison between the present unit and previous unit as to which was better.

Recent mover comparison to previous neighborhood. This item is based on the respondent's comparison between the present neighborhood and the previous neighborhood as to which was better. The definition of neighborhood is whatever the respondent considers it to be.

Utilization Characteristics

Persons. All persons occupying the housing unit are counted. These persons include not only occupants related to the householder but also any lodgers, roomers, boarders, partners, wards, foster children, and resident employees who share the living quarters of the householder. The data on persons show categories of the number of one person through seven-or-more-person households. The median for persons is rounded to the nearest tenth.

A person is counted at the usual place of residence for that person. This refers to the place where the person lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as a legal residence, voting residence, or domicile.

Rooms. The statistics on rooms are for the number of housing units with a specified number of rooms. Rooms counted include whole rooms used for living purposes, such as bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, recreation rooms, permanently enclosed porches that are suitable for year-round use, lodgers' rooms, and other finished and unfinished rooms. Also included are rooms used for offices by a person living in the unit. The median for rooms is rounded to the nearest tenth.

A dining room, to be counted, must be a separate room. It must be separated from adjoining rooms by built-in floor-to-ceiling walls extending at least a few inches from the intersecting walls. Movable or collapsible partitions or partitions consisting solely of shelves or cabinets are not considered built-in-walls. Bathrooms are not counted as rooms.

Rooms used for business. A room used only for business space is a room set up for use as an office or business such as: for a business owner, contract worker, self-employed person, commercial use (such as daycare, catering, etc.) or regular job. A room used for both, business and something else (such as a living room, family room, guest room, den, etc.) is also considered as ''used for business.'' Excluded are offices set up for personal household use only.

Persons per room. Persons per room is computed for each occupied housing unit by dividing the number of persons in the unit by the number of rooms in the unit. The figures shown refer, therefore, to the number of housing units having the specified ratio of persons per room.

Bedrooms. The number of bedrooms in the housing unit is the count of rooms used mainly for sleeping, even if also used for other purposes. Rooms reserved for sleeping, such as guest rooms, even though used infrequently, are counted as bedrooms. On the other hand, rooms used mainly for other purposes, even though used also for sleeping, such as a living room with a hideaway bed, are not considered bedrooms. A housing unit consisting of only one room, such as a one-room efficiency apartment, is classified by definition as having no bedroom.

Square footage of unit. Housing size is shown for singlefamily, detached housing units and mobile homes. Excluded from the calculation of square footage are unfinished attics, carports, attached garages, porches that are not protected from the elements (i.e. screened porches), and mobile home hitches. Both finished and unfinished basements are included. Median square footage is rounded to the nearest foot. Square footage is based on the respondent's estimate of the size of the unit. If the respondent did not know the square footage, the interviewer measured the outside dimensions of the unit. Preliminary evaluation indicates that this item is somewhat unreliable.

Square feet per person. Square feet per person is computed for each single-family detached housing unit and mobile home by dividing the number of persons in the unit by the square footage of the unit. The figures shown refer to the number of housing units having the specified square feet per person. Median square footage is rounded to the nearest foot.

Lot size. Lot size includes all connecting land that is owned or rented with the home. Excluded are two-or-more unit buildings and two-or-more-unit mobile homes. Median lot size is shown to hundredths of an acre.

Structural Characteristics

New construction. Housing units built in the 4 years prior to the date of the interview are classified as new construction.

Year structure built. Year structure built refers to when the building was first constructed, not when it was remodeled, added to, or converted. The figures refer to the number of housing units in structures built during the specified periods and in existence at the time of the interview. For mobile homes and trailers, the manufacturer's model year was assumed to be the year built. Median year built is rounded to the nearest year.

Units in structure. In determining the number of housing units in a structure, all units, both occupied and vacant, were counted. The statistics are presented for the number of housing units in structures of specified type and size, not for the number of residential structures.

A structure is a separate building if it has either open space on all sides or is separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof. Structures containing only one housing unit are further classified as detached or attached.

A one-unit structure is detached if it has open space on all four sides even though it has an adjoining shed or garage. A one-unit structure is attached if it has one or more walls extending from ground to roof that divide it from other adjoining structures and does not share a furnace or boiler with adjoining structures such as in rowhouses, townhouses, etc.

Mobile homes and trailers are shown as a separate category. When one or more rooms have been added to a mobile home or trailer, it is classified as a mobile home. Prior to the 1984 reports, these units were not classified as a mobile home or trailer.

Foundation. This item is restricted to one-unit buildings and excludes mobile homes. A structure has a basement if there is enclosed space at least partially underground in which a person can walk upright under all or part of the building. The basement is under all the building if it is under the entire main structure, excluding garages, carports, and porches. Crawl space is space between the ground and the first floor of the house, but it is not high enough for a person to walk upright. A house is built on a concrete slab if it is built on concrete that has been poured on the ground. The ''other'' category refers to a house built on stilts or pilings (for example, beach houses) and boats, motorhomes, etc.

Site placement. This item is restricted to mobile homes. ''Site'' refers to location and not necessarily a mobile home park site. The mobile home does not have to have been occupied; it only needs to have been set up for occupancy.

Stories in structure. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. Finished attics are included in the number of stories. Unfinished attics are not. For split levels and bilevels, the number of stories is determined by the highest number of floors that are physically over each other.

Stories between main and apartment entrances. Data are presented for multiunit structures with two or more floors and are concerned with the number of floors from the main residential entrance level of the building to the main entrance of the unit. ''Same floor'' indicates that the main entrance of the sample unit is on the same level as the main entrance that residents use to enter the building.

Elevator on floor. Statistics are shown for the number of housing units in structures with two or more floors that have one or more passenger elevators on the same floor as the sample unit and whether they are in working or nonworking condition. Excluded are elevators used only for freight.

Common stairways. The statistics on common stairways are presented for multiunit structures with two or more floors that have common stairways. The figures reflect the physical condition of the stairway; i.e. whether there are loose, broken, or missing steps or stair railings. Common stairways are stairways that are usually used by the occupants and guests to get to the doors of the unit. They may be either inside the structure or attached to the outside of the building.

Light fixtures in public halls. These statistics are presented for housing units in two-or-more-unit structures. Data include whether or not there are light fixtures in the public halls and whether or not some, none, or all of the light fixtures are in working order. Light fixtures include wall lights, ceiling lights, or table lamps in the public halls of the building. Public halls are used by the occupants and guests to get to their apartment doors.

Water leakage during last 12 months. Data on water leakage are shown if the leakage occurred in the 12 months prior to the interview or while the household was living in the unit if less than 12 months. Housing units with water leakage are classified by whether the water leaked in from inside or outside the building and by the most common areas (roof, basement, walls, closed windows, or doors, etc.) or reasons (fixtures backed up or overflowed, pipes leaked, etc.) of water leakage.

External building conditions. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The external condition of the building that contains the sample unit was determined by interviewer observation, as visible from the front of the building or the roadway. The categories were grouped into the following: roof, walls, windows, and foundation.

Roof. A ''sagging roof'' is a critical defect indicating continuous neglect, or deep or serious damage to the structure. Only roofs with substantial sagging were included. ''Missing roofing material'' includes rotted, broken, loose, or missing shingles, tiles, slate, shake, tin, etc., caused by extensive damage from fire, storm, or serious neglect. ''Hole in roof'' occurs when the missing roof materials expose the interior of the unit directly to the elements. Holes caused by construction activity were not counted unless the construction had been abandoned. ''Could not see roof'' occurs when possible situations like a high tree, evening interviews, or a flat roof prevent the roof from being visible.

Walls. ''Missing bricks, siding, other outside wall material'' applies to the exterior walls (including chimney) of the structure. Those defects may have been caused by storm, fire, flood, extensive neglect, vandalism, and so forth. Materials may include clapboard siding, shingles, boards, brick, concrete stucco, etc. The missing materials do not necessarily expose the interior of the unit openly to the elements. Missing materials resulting from construction activity were not counted unless construction had been abandoned. ''Sloping outside walls'' are a critical defect indicating continuous neglect or serious damage to the structure. Only walls with substantial sagging were included.

Windows. ''Boarded-up windows'' have been sealed off to protect against weather or entry and include windows and/or doors covered by board, brick, metal, or some other material. ''Broken windows'' indicate several broken or missing window panes. ''Bars on windows'' are to protect against unlawful entry. The condition of the windows has no bearing on this item. The bars can be vertical, horizontal, a metal grating, etc. Windows completely covered with metal sheeting are not included in this category.

Foundation crumbling or has open crack or hole. This category includes large cracks, holes, and rotted, loose, or missing foundation material.

Could not see foundation. This occurs when landscaping, night interviewing, or some other reason prevents visibility for observation.

Plumbing Characteristics

Plumbing facilities. The category ''with all plumbing facilities'' consists of housing units that have hot and cold piped water as well as a flush toilet and a bathtub or shower for the exclusive use of the occupants of the unit. All plumbing facilities must be located in the housing unit but they need not be in the same room. Lacking some plumbing facilities or no plumbing facilities for exclusive use means that the housing unit does not have all three specified plumbing facilities (hot and cold piped water, flush toilet, and bathtub or shower) inside the housing unit, or that the toilet or bathing facilities are also for the use of the occupants of other housing units.

Complete bathrooms. A housing unit is classified as having a complete bathroom if it has a room with a flush toilet, bathtub or shower, a sink, and hot and cold piped water. All facilities must be in the same room to be a complete bathroom. A half bathroom has either a flush toilet or a bathtub or shower but does not have all the facilities for a complete bathroom.

Primary source of water and water supply stoppage. A public system or private company refers to any source supplying running water to six or more housing units. The water may be supplied by a city, county, water district, or private water company, or it may be obtained from a well that supplies six or more housing units. An individual well that provides water for five or fewer housing units is further classified by whether it is ''drilled'' or ''dug.'' Water sources such as springs, cisterns, streams, lakes, or commercial bottled water are included in the ''other'' category.

Water supply stoppage means that the housing unit was completely without running water from its regular source. Completely without running water means that the water system servicing the unit supplied no water at all, that is, no equipment or facility using running water (in kitchen and bathroom sinks, shower, in bathtub, flush toilet, dishwasher, and other similar items) had water supplied to it, or all were inoperable. The reason could vary from a stoppage because of a flood or storm, to a broken pipe, to a shutdown of the water system, to a failure to pay the bill, or other reasons.

Data on water supply stoppage are shown if they occurred in the 3 months prior to the interview, or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, and if the breakdown or failure lasted 6 consecutive hours or more. Housing units with water supply stoppage are also classified according to the number of times the stoppages occurred.

Safety of primary source of water. Water was considered safe (consumable or potable) if the main water source was used or *could be* used for drinking. The respondent was not asked what source was used by the household for drinking but whether or not the main water source was safe to drink. This item excludes units where the primary source of drinking water was commercial bottled water.

Source of drinking water. The statistics presented are restricted to units where the respondent answered their primary source of drinking water was *not* safe to drink. Units where the primary source of water was commercial bottled water were excluded. For a more detailed explanation on water sources, see the definition of ''Primary source of water'' in this appendix.

Sewage disposal and sewage disposal breakdowns. A public sewer is connected to a city, county, sanitary district, neighborhood, or subdivision sewer system. Included are only systems operated by a government body or private organization sewage treatment system serving six or more units. Small sewage treatment plants, which in some localities are called neighborhood septic tanks, are classified as public sewers. A septic tank or cesspool is an underground tank or pit used for disposal of sewage (serving five or fewer units). A chemical toilet, which may be inside or outside the unit, uses chemicals to break down or dissolve sewage. Housing units for which sewage is disposed of in some other way are included in the ''other'' category.

The data on breakdowns in the means of sewage disposal are limited to housing units in which the means of sewage disposal was a public sewer, septic tank, or cesspool. Breakdowns refer to situations in which the system was completely unusable. Examples include septic tank being pumped because it no longer perked, tank collapsed, tank exploded, sewer main broken, sewer treatment plant not operating as a result of electrical failure or water service interruption, etc.

Data on breakdowns are shown if they occurred in the 3 months prior to the interview or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, and if the breakdown

lasted 6 consecutive hours or more. Housing units with a breakdown in sewage disposal are also classified according to the number of breakdowns.

Flush toilet and flush toilet breakdowns. A privy or chemical toilet is not considered a flush toilet. Flush toilets outside the unit were not counted. The statistics on breakdowns of flush toilet are shown for housing units with at least one flush toilet for the household's use only. The flush toilet may be completely unusable because of a faulty flushing mechanism, broken pipes, stopped up soil pipe, lack of water supplied to the flush toilet, or some other reason.

Data on breakdowns are classified by whether any of the flush toilets were working in the 3 months prior to the interview, or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, and the number of times the breakdown lasted 6 hours or more.

Equipment and Fuels

Heating equipment and heating equipment breakdowns. Data are shown for the main heating equipment and other heating equipment used in addition to the main heating equipment. More than one category of ''other heating equipment'' could be reported for the same household. Only one type of equipment was reported as the ''main heating equipment.'' Warm-air furnace refers to a central system that provides warm air through ducts leading to various rooms. Steam or hot water system refers to a central heating system in which heat from steam or hot water is delivered through radiators or other outlets. It also includes solar heated hot water that is circulated throughout the home. An electric heat pump refers to a heating-cooling system that utilizes indoor and outdoor coils, a compressor, and a refrigerant to pump in heat during the winter and pump out heat during the summer. Only heat pumps that are centrally installed with ducts to the rooms are included in this category. Built-in electric units refers to units permanently installed in floors, walls, ceilings, or baseboards. A floor, wall, or other built-in hot-air unit without ducts delivers warm air to the room right above the furnace or to the room(s) on one or both sides of the wall in which the furnace is installed.

Room heaters with flue include non-portable room heaters in the wall or free standing heaters that burn liquid fuel, and which are connected to a flue, vent, or chimney to remove smoke and fumes.

Room heaters without flue include any room heater that burns kerosene, gas, or oil, which does not connect to a flue, vent, or chimney. Portable electric heaters include heaters that receive current from an electrical wall outlet. Stoves refer to ranges, stoves, or Franklin stoves that burn wood, coal, or other solid fuel. Fireplaces with inserts have a fan-forced air circulation system to force the heat into the room. A fireplace without inserts or with only glass door fire screens or firebacks inserted in the back of the fireplace to passively reflect heat is included in the category ''fireplace without inserts.''

For vacant housing units from which the heating equipment had been removed, the equipment used by the last occupants was to be reported.

For breakdowns of heating equipment, statistics are shown for housing units occupied by the householder during the winter prior to the interview. The data are classified by whether the housing unit was uncomfortably cold for 24 hours or more, the number of times equipment breakdowns occurred lasting 6 hours or more, and causes for the breakdowns.

The heating equipment is broken down if it is not providing heat at its normal heating capacity through some fault in the equipment. Utility interruptions occur when there is a cut off in the gas, electricity, or other fuel supplying the heat. Inadequate heating capacity refers to heating equipment that is providing heat at its normal capacity, but the housing unit is still too cold for the occupants. Inadequate insulation refers to air drafts through window frames, electrical outlets, or walls that are cold.

Heating degree day. Each degree that the average temperature for a day is below 65 degrees Fahrenheit produces one heating degree day. For example, if the maximum temperature is 70 degrees F and the minimum temperature is 52 degrees F, the average temperature for the day is 61 degrees, resulting in four heating degree days. The information on heating degree days was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and based on averages for the 30-year period, 1951-1980. Each sample unit was assigned a heating and cooling degree day using the NOAA data. The categories presented in tables of this report represent the total heating degree days for the entire year.

Cooling degree day. Each degree that the average temperature for a day is above 65 degrees Fahrenheit produces one cooling degree day. For example, if the maximum temperature is 80 degrees F and the minimum temperature is 62 degrees F, the average temperature for the day is 71 degrees, resulting in six cooling degree days. The information on cooling degree days was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and based on averages for the 30-year period, 1951-1980. Each sample unit was assigned a heating and cooling degree day using the NOAA data. The categories presented in tables of this report represent the total cooling degree days for the entire year.

Fuels. Electricity is generally supplied by means of above or underground electric power lines. Piped gas is gas piped through underground pipes from a central system to serve the neighborhood. Bottled gas is pressurized gas stored in

tanks or bottles that are filled or exchanged when empty. Fuel oil is heating oil normally supplied by truck to a storage tank for use by the heating system. Kerosene or other liquid fuel includes kerosene, gasoline, alcohol, and other similar combustible liquids. Coal or coke refers to coal or any coal derivative usually delivered by means of truck. Wood refers to the use of wood or wood charcoal, etc., as a fuel. Solar energy refers to the use of energy available from sunlight as a heating fuel source. Other includes briquettes made of pitch and sawdust, coal dust, waste material like corncobs, purchased steam, or any other fuel not listed.

Electric fuses and circuit breakers. These statistics are presented for occupied housing units. The data show whether an electric fuse has blown or circuit breaker has tripped in the home in the 3 months prior to the interview or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months. A blown fuse or tripped breaker switch results in the temporary loss of electricity until the fuse is replaced or the breaker switch reset. Blown fuses inside major pieces of installed equipment (such as some air conditioners) are counted as blown fuses or tripped breaker switches.

Equipment. This item refers to selected equipment that is in working order and for the household's exclusive use. If there are two or more of a specified appliance in the housing unit, the age of the newest is reported.

Complete kitchen facilities. A housing unit has complete kitchen facilities when it has all of the following for the exclusive use of the occupants of the unit: (1) an installed kitchen sink, (2) an oven, (3)burners, and (4)a mechanical refrigerator. Quarters with only portable cooking equipment are not considered as having a range or cookstove. An icebox is not included as a mechanical refrigerator. The kitchen facilities are for the exclusive use of the occupants when they are used only by the occupants of one housing unit, including lodgers or other unrelated persons living in the unit.

The same criteria were used for occupied and vacant units in determining complete kitchen facilities. In previous years, for vacant units from which one or all of the kitchen facilities had been removed, the kitchen facilities used by the last occupant were reported. As a result, the total vacant units lacking complete kitchen facilities in this report may appear higher than in previous survey years.

Kitchen sink. The sink must be in the unit or on an enclosed porch but does not have to be in the kitchen. A bathroom sink does not count as a kitchen sink.

Refrigerator. The refrigerator must be a working mechanical refrigerator. Ice boxes are not counted.

Burners and oven. The cookstove or range does not have to be mechanical; for example, it can be a wood-burning stove. Microwaves are included in the count of ovens, although toaster ovens are not. Portable burners are excluded from the count of cooking burners. The data show whether the equipment is less than 5 years old.

Dishwasher. All mechanical dishwashers are included except counter top dishwashers. The data show whether the equipment is less than 5 years old.

Washing machine. The washing machine must be mechanical. A wringer washing machine that must be plugged in to run is included in this count. The data show whether the equipment is less than 5 years old.

Clothes dryer. The clothes dryer must be mechanical. Excluded from this count are hand operated wringers, hand turned spin dryers, etc. The data show whether the equipment is less than 5 years old.

Disposal in sink. Only garbage disposals in working order or only temporarily out of order are included. The data show whether the equipment is less than 5 years old.

Air conditioning. Air conditioning is defined as the cooling of air by a refrigeration unit; excluded are evaporative coolers, fans, or blowers that are not connected to a refrigeration unit. A room air-conditioning unit is an individual air conditioner that is installed in a window or an outside wall and generally intended to cool one room, although it may sometimes be used to cool several rooms. A central system is a central installation that air conditions the entire housing unit. In an apartment building, a central system may cool all apartments in the building; each apartment may have its own central system; or there may be several systems, each providing central air conditioning for a group of apartments. A central installation with individual room controls is a central air-conditioning system.

Housing and Neighborhood Quality

Selected amenities:

Porch, deck, balcony, or patio. The porch, deck, balcony, or patio must be attached to the sample unit, not just to the building or free standing. Porches may be enclosed or open.

Telephone available. A housing unit is classified as having a telephone if there is a telephone for receiving calls available to the occupants of the unit. The telephone may be located outside or inside the housing unit, and one

telephone may serve the occupants of several units. The number of housing units with a telephone available, therefore, does not indicate the number of telephones installed in homes.

Usable fireplace. Excludes the following: fireplaces that have been blocked off or whose chimney or flue have been filled, decorative or artificial fireplaces, and Franklin stoves. Free-standing fireplaces are included in this item.

Separate dining room. A separate dining room is an area separated from adjoining rooms by a built-in floor-to-ceiling wall extending at least a few inches from its intersecting wall. Built-in walls do not include movable or collapsible partitions or partitions consisting solely of shelves and cabinets.

Living rooms, recreation rooms, etc. Includes family rooms, dens, recreation rooms and/or libraries.

Garage or carport. The garage or carport must be on the same property but does not have to be attached to the house. Off street parking is considered driveway or parking lot privileges that is paid for as part of the rent. Data on garage or carport are not collected for occasional use vacant and other vacant.

Selected deficiencies:

Signs of rats. The statistics on signs of rats refer to respondents who reported seeing rats or signs of rats inside the house or building during the last 3 months or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months. Signs of rats include droppings, holes in the wall, or ripped or torn food containers.

Holes in floors. Data are shown on whether there are holes in the interior floors of a housing unit. The holes do not have to go all the way through to a lower floor or to the exterior of the unit. The holes must be large enough to cause someone to trip.

Open cracks or holes (interior). Statistics are presented on whether or not there are open cracks or holes in the interior walls or ceilings of the housing unit. Included are cracks or holes that do not go all the way through to the next room or to the exterior of the housing unit. Hairline cracks or cracks that appear in the walls or ceilings but are not large enough to insert the edge of a dime and very small holes caused by nails or other similar objects are not considered to be open cracks or holes.

Broken plaster or peeling paint (interior). The area of peeling paint or broken plaster must be on the inside walls or ceilings and at least one area of broken plaster or peeling paint must be larger than 8 inches by 11 inches.

Electric wiring. A housing unit is classified as having exposed electric wiring if the unit has any wiring that is not enclosed, either in the walls or in metal coverings, or if the unit has any wiring outside the walls enclosed in some material other than metal. Excluded from the tabulation are appliance cords, extension cords, chandelier cords, and telephone, antenna, or cable TV wires.

Electric wall outlets. A housing unit is classified as having rooms without electric wall outlets if there is not at least one working electric wall outlet in each room of the unit. A working electric wall outlet is one that is in operating condition; i.e., can be used when needed. If a room does not have an electric wall outlet, an extension cord used in place of a wall outlet is not considered to be an electric wall outlet.

Cars and Trucks Available:

Cars. Included are passenger cars and station wagons owned or regularly used by one or more household members and ordinarily kept at home. Company cars are counted if used regularly for nonbusiness purposes and kept at home as well as taxicabs if they are owned by a household member and kept at the sample unit. To obtain a count of all units lacking cars, the lines ‘‘no cars, trucks, or vans’’ and ‘‘other households without cars’’ must be added together.

Trucks and vans. Included are pickups and small panel trucks of one-ton capacity or less , and small vans that are owned or regularly used by one or more members of the household and ordinarily kept at home. Company trucks and vans are included if used regularly for nonbusiness purposes and kept at home. To obtain a count of all units lacking trucks or vans, the lines ‘‘no cars, trucks, or vans’’ and ‘‘with cars, no trucks or vans’’ must be added together. Except for units falling in the category ‘‘no cars, trucks, or vans,’’ all units will fall into two categories. For example, a unit with one car only would fall both in the category ‘‘1 car with or without trucks or vans’’ and ‘‘with cars, no trucks or vans.’’

Severe physical problems. A unit has severe physical problems if it has any of the following five problems:

Plumbing. Lacking hot or cold piped water or a flush toilet, or lacking both bathtub and shower, all inside the structure for the exclusive use of the unit.

Heating. Having been uncomfortably cold last winter for 24 hours or more because the heating equipment broke down, and it broke down at least three times last winter for at least 6 hours each time.

Electric. Having no electricity, or all of the following three electric problems: exposed wiring; a room with no working wall outlet; and three blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers in the last 90 days.

Upkeep. Having any five of the following six maintenance problems: water leaks from the outside, such as from the roof, basement, windows, or doors; leaks from inside structure such as pipes or plumbing fixtures; holes in the floors; holes or open cracks in the walls or ceilings; more than 8 inches by 11 inches of peeling paint or broken plaster; or signs of rats or mice in the last 90 days.

Hallways. Having all of the following four problems in public areas: no working light fixtures; loose or missing steps; loose or missing railings; and no elevator.

Moderate physical problems. A unit has moderate physical problems if it has any of the following five problems, but none of the severe problems.

Plumbing. On at least three occasions during the last 3 months or while the household was living in the unit if less than 3 months, all the flush toilets were broken down at the same time for 6 hours or more.

Heating. Having unvented gas, oil, or kerosene heaters as the primary heating equipment.

Upkeep. Having any three or four of the overall list of six upkeep problems mentioned above under severe physical problems.

Hallways. Having any three of the four hallway problems mentioned above under severe physical problems.

Kitchen. Lacking a kitchen sink, refrigerator, or burners inside the structure for the exclusive use of the unit.

Overall opinion of structure. The data presented are based on the respondent's overall opinion of the house or apartment as a place to live. The respondent was asked to rate the structure based on a scale from 1 to 10, where 10 is the best and 1 is the worst.

Overall opinion of neighborhood. The data presented are based on the respondent's overall opinion of the neighborhood. The respondent defines neighborhood. The respondent was asked to rate the neighborhood based on a scale from 1 to 10, where 10 is the best and 1 is the worst.

Neighborhood conditions. The statistics presented are based on the respondent's opinion and attitude toward the neighborhood. The respondent defines neighborhood.The respondent was asked a two-part question: (1) If anything about the neighborhood bothered the respondent and (2) if so, what? The interviewer coded the responses into the following categories: crime; noise; traffic; litter or housing deterioration; poor city/county services; undesirable commercial, institutional, or industrial property; people; and other. Multiple responses were allowed. The respondent may not have the same opinion as a neighbor about neighborhood conditions. The respondent's opinion may or may not reflect the actual neighborhood situation.

Description of area within 300 feet. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The interviewer, through personal observation, marked all of the following categories that describe the area within 300 feet of the building in which the sample unit is located. The interviewer's best estimate of distance was considered to be acceptable. The categories include: single-family detached house(s); single-family attached house(s) or low rise (1-3 story) multiunit building(s); mid-rise (4-6 story) multiunit building(s); high-rise (7-or-more story) multiunit buildings; and mobile home(s), excluding campers. The category ''Commercial, institutional, industrial building(s)'' includes all varieties of nonresidential structures—offices, banks, hospitals, prisons, pumping stations, water treatment plants, factories, parking garages, churches, hotels, restaurants, barns, junkyards, etc. ''Residential parking lot(s)'' exclude driveways of single-family homes and parking garages where parking is on more than one level. ''Body of water'' refers to lakes, ponds, streams, reservoirs, rivers, etc. Swimming pools, bird baths, temporary pools of water, etc., are excluded. ''Open space, park, woods, farm, or ranch'' include cemeteries, golf courses, woods, forest preserves, vacant lots, undeveloped land, airport land, ball fields, school fields, etc. The category ''4 + lane highway, railroad, or airport'' refers to highways of 4 lanes or more, railroad tracks, and airports.

Age of other residential buildings within 300 feet. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The statistics presented are based on the interviewer's personal observation. ''About the same'' indicates all homes within 300 feet appear to have been built at about the same time as the sample unit. If the sample unit was built after 1940, residences built more than 10 years before or after the sample unit are considered as not being built at about the same time. ''Older than sample unit'' and ''newer than sample unit'' indicate that the sample unit appears to be decidedly newer or older than the homes within 300 feet. ''Very mixed'' indicates the predominant ages appear to be very mixed, and if there are no other residential buildings within 300 feet, ''no other residential buildings'' is marked.

Mobile homes in group. Mobile homes or mobile home sites gathered close together are considered to be in a ''group.'' This may be a mobile home park or it may be a number grouped together on adjacent individually owned lots but not in a mobile home park.

Other buildings vandalized or with interior exposed. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The statistics presented are based on the interviewer's personal observation. A unit is considered to be vandalized if it has most of the visible windows broken, doors pulled off,

been badly burned, words or symbols printed on it, portions of the roof missing or gone, or in some other way has the interior exposed to the elements.

Bars on windows of buildings. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The statistics presented are based on the interviewer's personal observation. The condition of the windows has no bearing on this item. The windows might be in perfect condition but the bars might be there to protect against vandalism. Windows that are boarded up or covered with tin are not included.

Condition of streets. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The statistics presented are based on the interviewer's personal observation. Major repairs include large potholes, badly crumbling or deteriorating shoulders and roadsides, deep ruts, etc. Minor repairs include small cracks, shallow holes, or missing minor surfacing.

Trash, litter, or junk on streets or any properties. The statistics presented are restricted to multiunits. The statistics presented are based on the interviewer's personal observations. Major accumulation includes tires, appliances or large amounts of trash accumulated over a period of time. Minor accumulation includes small amounts of paper, cans, or bottles but that do not give the impression of long neglect. The building in which the sample unit is located is included.

Financial Characteristics

All of the financial characteristics shown in this report, except those in table 19 of each chapter, are shown for all renters and/or all owners. Table 19 presents financial characteristics for specified owners and specified renters. Specified owners are single-family, owner-occupied units on less than 10 acres with no business or medical office. Specified renters exclude single-family units on 10 acres or more.

Value. Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot) would sell for if it were for sale. Any nonresidential portions of the property are excluded from the cost. For vacant units, value represents the sale price asked for the property at the time of the interview, and may differ from the price at which the property is sold. Medians for value are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Income. The statistics on income in the American Housing Survey are based on the respondent's reply to questions on income for the 12 months prior to the interview and are the sum of the amounts reported for wage and salary income, self-employment income, interest or dividends, stock dividends, Social Security or railroad retirement income, public assistance or welfare payments, alimony or child support, and all other money income. The figure represents the amount of income received before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, bond purchases, health insurance premiums, Medicare deductions, etc. Medians for income are rounded to the nearest hundred dollars.

In this report, the statistics are shown separately for the money income of families and primary individuals occupying the housing unit (the sum of the income of the householder and all other members of the family 14 years old and over, or the income of the primary individual), and the money income of the household (the sum of the income of the householder and all household members 14 years old and over).

Wage or salary income is defined as the total money earnings received for work performed as an employee at any time during the 12-month period prior to the interview. It includes wages, salary, piece-rate payments, commissions, tips, cash bonuses, and Armed Forces pay. Self-employment income is defined as money income received from a business, professional practice, partnership, or farm in which the person was self-employed. Social Security or pensions includes cash receipts of Social Security pensions; survivors' benefits, disability insurance programs for retired persons, dependents of deceased insured workers, or disabled workers; and deductions for Medicare and health insurance premiums. Cash receipts of retirement, disability, and survivors' benefit payments made by the U.S. Government under the Railroad Retirement Act are also included. Separate payments received for hospital or other medical care are not included.

Income from all other sources includes money income received from sources such as periodic payments from interest or dividends; net rental income (or loss) from property rentals; net receipts from roomers or boarders; net royalties; public assistance or welfare payments which include cash receipts received from public assistance programs, such as old age assistance, aid to families with dependent children, and aid to the blind or totally disabled; unemployment insurance benefits; workmen's compensation cash benefits; periodic payments by the Veteran's Administration to disabled veterans; public or private pensions; periodic receipts from insurance policies or annuities; alimony or child support from persons who are not members of the household; net gambling gains; and nonservice scholarships and fellowships.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: Value of income ''in kind,'' such as, free living quarters, housing subsidies, food stamps, or food produced and consumed in the home; money received from the sale of property (unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property); money borrowed; tax refund; withdrawal of bank deposits; accrued interest on uncashed savings bonds; exchange of money between relatives living in the same household; gifts of money; and lump-sum payments from inheritances, insurance policies, estates, trusts, gifts, etc.

The income statistics and the characteristics of the household refer to different periods in time. Income data refer to the 12 months prior to the interview, whereas the household characteristics refer to the date of interview. Thus, family or household income does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income period if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of the interview. On the other hand, family or household income includes income reported by persons who did not reside with the household during the income period but who were members at the time of the interview. For most households, however, the income reported was received by persons who were members of the household throughout the income period.

There may be significant differences in the income data between the American Housing Survey and other Bureau surveys and censuses. For example, the time period for income data in the American Housing Survey refers to the 12 months prior to the interview while other income data generally refer to the calendar year prior to the date of the interview. Additional differences in the income data may be attributed to factors such as the various ways income questions are asked, the sampling variability and nonsampling errors between the American Housing Survey and other Census Bureau surveys and censuses, survey procedures and techniques, and processing procedures.

Current income. Two new questions were added to the American Housing Survey in 1989. Upon completion of the detailed income questions, respondents were asked, ''Is your total family income THIS MONTH about the same as it was a year ago?'' ''About the same'' was defined as within 10 percent or just cost of living adjustments. If the respondent answered ''no,'' a second question was asked, ''What do you expect your total family income to be in the NEXT 12 MONTHS?'' Current income for families whose most recent month's income was NOT about the same as a year ago is the ''total expected family income in the NEXT 12 MONTHS.'' Current income for families whose most recent month's income WAS about the same as a year ago is ''family and primary individual income.'' For the majority of families, current income equals income of families and primary individuals. Data on current income is not published separately. It's used in the calculation of ''Ratio of value to current income,'' and ''Monthly housing costs as percent of current income.'' It is felt that respondents who have only recently entered the job market and those who changed jobs during the past year often report a previous year's income, which is too low to accurately reflect their current financial situation as it relates to the value of their home and their housing costs.

Ratio of value to current income. The ratio of value to current income was computed by dividing the value of the housing unit by the total current income (see definition of current income). The ratio was computed separately for each housing unit and was rounded to the nearest tenth. For value and current income, the dollar amounts were used. Units occupied by individuals who reported no income or a net loss compose the category ''zero or negative income.'' Medians for the ratio of value to current income are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Before 1989, the item ''Value-income ratio'' was computed by using the income of families and primary individuals only. It was felt that the respondents who only recently entered the job market or who changed jobs during the past year often reported a previous years's income, which was too low to accurately reflect their current financial situation.

Amount of savings and investments. These data are restricted to families and primary individuals with total incomes of $25,000 per year or less. Savings include savings in the bank or other financial institution. It also includes savings in money market accounts. Investments in a farm or business must be owned shares in a business or farm, owned percentage of the capital or assets, investment in a farm or business for which the investor holds a promissory note, or membership in a partnership that has any of the above. Other investments include stocks, bonds, rental property, real estate, antiques, art, certificates of deposit, IRA or KEOGH accounts, commodities, etc.

Food stamps. These data are restricted to families and primary individuals with total incomes of $25,000 per year or less. Food stamps are government issued coupons that can be used to purchase food. The food stamp program is a joint Federal-State program that is administered by State and local governments.

Poverty status. The poverty data in this report differs from official poverty estimates in two important respects. The first important difference is the use of a poverty definition that is based on household income in place of the official method that is based on the income of the family or the unrelated individual. Under the official approach, the poverty status of two unrelated individuals living together would be determined by comparing the income of each individual to the poverty threshold for an unrelated individual. The result might be that both were in poverty, both were out of poverty, or one was in poverty and one was not. Under the approach used in this report, the two unrelated individuals were treated as members of a two-person family and their poverty status was determined by comparing their combined income to the poverty threshold for a two-person family. The effect of using a poverty concept that is based on household income is to undercount the number of persons in poverty relative to the official estimate. A study based on the March 1975 Current Population Survey found that poverty estimates based on a household income concept were about 6 percent lower than official estimates. For more information, see Technical Paper X, *Effect of Using a Poverty Definition Based on*

Household Income, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1976. A second important difference between the poverty estimates in this report and the official poverty estimates has to do with the method used to measure income. The official annual poverty estimates are based on data collected in the March supplement to the Current Population Survey. The income questions asked in that survey are very detailed and measure the amount of income received during the previous calendar year. The income questions asked in the AHS are much less detailed and measure the amount received during the previous 12 months. Because interviews were conducted throughout the year, the income measures do not pertain to a fixed period. Many of the income questions in the AHS were asked on a household rather than an individual income basis. The lack of data for individuals made it necessary to adopt a poverty definition based on household income.

Officially, families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index originated at the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by the Federal Interagency Committees in 1969 and 1980. The poverty index is based solely on money income and does not reflect the fact that many low-income persons receive noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. The index is based on the Department of Agriculture's 1961 Economy Food Plan and reflects the different consumption requirements of families based on their size and composition. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For further details, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 194, *Poverty in the United States: 1995.*

Year unit acquired. The year the unit was acquired or inherited refers to the year in which the present owner acquired or inherited the house or apartment; for example, the year the contract was signed. This date may be different from the date when the occupants moved in. If the land and building were bought at different times, the year of the building only was recorded. If there was a land contract only, the year the contract was signed was recorded. Median year acquired is rounded to the nearest year.

First-time owners. If both the owner and any co-owners have never owned or co-owned another home as a usual place of residence, then the housing unit was reported as the first home ever owned. Previous homes purchased solely as vacation homes or homes purchased for commercial rental purposes are not to be considered usual residences. However, if a previously owned home was originally purchased as a usual residence and later used as a vacation home or for commercial or rental purposes, the home is considered as being owned as a usual residence.

Purchase price. The purchase price refers to the price of the house or apartment and lot at the time the property was purchased. Closing costs are excluded from the purchase price, and for mobile homes, the value of the land is excluded. Median purchase price is rounded to the nearest dollar.

Major source of down payment. This item refers to the source of the cash used for down payment or outright purchase of the property (house and lot). If more than one source applied, the one providing the largest portion of the down payment or outright purchase was recorded. Sale of previous home was indicated only if the previous home was sold during the 12-month period preceding the acquisition of the present home. Savings, or cash on hand, includes money drawn from savings, such as bank deposits, credit unions, share accounts, savings bonds, certificates of deposits (CD's), money market funds, and IRA or KEOGH accounts. Sale of other investment includes the sale of other real property or real estate other than the previous home or from the sale of other investments such as securities (common and preferred stock, municipal or corporate bonds, mutual funds), dissolved business ventures, etc. Borrowing other than a mortgage on this property was indicated if the present owner borrowed the down payment, even if the property was mortgaged.

Money received as a gift regardless of the source was categorized ''inheritance or gift.'' ''Land where building built used for financing'' means the land on which the structure was built was used as the present owner's equity in the property. Sources of down payment that do not fit any of the above categories were recorded in the ''other'' category.

Mortgages currently on property. The owner or the owner's spouse was asked the number of mortgages or similar loans (including home equity loans) currently in effect on the home. For mobile homes, if there was a separate loan for the mobile home and for the land, two mortgages were recorded. A mortgage or similar debt refers to all forms of debt where the property is pledged as security for payment of the debt. It includes such debt instruments as deeds of trust, trust deeds, mortgage bonds, and vendors' liens. In the first three arrangements, usually a third party, known as the trustee, holds the title to the property until the debt is paid. In the vendor lien arrangement, the title is kept by the buyer but the seller (vendor) reserves, in the deed to the buyer, a lien on the property to secure payment of the balance of the purchase price. Also included as a mortgage or similar debt are contracts to purchase, land contracts, and lease-purchase agreements where the title to the property remains with the seller until the agreed upon payments have been made by the buyer.

Home equity loan. A unit was considered to have a home equity loan, if the respondent reported that one or more of the mortgages was a home equity loan.

Primary mortgage. Data are shown in this report for primary mortgages and secondary mortgages. A mortgage is primary if it is the only one on the property. If two or more

mortgages exist, one was designated as the primary mortgage. Detailed information on mortgages was collected in the AHS on the first two mortgages reported even if the unit had three or more mortgages. On the basis of this information, one of the first two mortgages was considered to be the primary mortgage. The definition of the primary mortgage may not in all cases totally agree with legal definitions of a ''first mortgage.'' The following hierarchy was used to determine primary mortgage: (1) A VA, FHA, or FmHA mortgage was automatically considered to be the primary mortgage. (2) If neither mortgage was a VA, FHA, or FmHA mortgage, an assumed mortgage was considered to be the primary mortgage. (3) If none of the above conditions existed, the mortgage obtained the year the home was purchased was considered to be the primary mortgage. (4) If both mortgages were obtained after the year of purchase, the one taken out first was considered to be the primary mortgage. (5) If all the above failed to designate a primary mortgage, the mortgage for the largest initial amount borrowed was considered the primary mortgage. All other mortgages were considered to be secondary.

Type of primary mortgage. Mortgage insurance is financial protection provided to the lender in case the borrower fails to keep up the required mortgage payments and defaults on the loan. Such insurance protection is offered by both the Government, acting as an insurance agent, and by private mortgage insurance companies. The Federal government agencies that currently insure or guarantee mortgages or similar debts include the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Veteran's Administration (VA), and the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). The FHA insures home loans made by private lenders. The Farmers Home Administration provides much the same service as the FHA but confines its assistance to rural areas. The VA guarantees or insures loans under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill). Mortgage loans that are not insured by the FHA, VA, or Farmers Home Administration are referred to as ''conventional'' mortgages. Conventional mortgages and mortgage debts insured or guaranteed by State or local government agencies are shown in the tables as ''Other types.''

Lower cost State and local mortgages. Data are shown for owners with one or more mortgages. These are loans generally 1 to 3 percent below the current mortgage interest rate at the time the loan was made. The loans are managed through State or local governments. Excluded are Federally funded VA programs.

Mortgage origination. Data are shown for owner-occupied units with one or more mortgages. For units with new mortgages, data are classified by the date the new mortgage was obtained in relation to the date the property was acquired. An assumed mortgage indicates that the present mortgage is the same mortgage that was assumed from the previous owner when the property was acquired and has not been refinanced. A wrap-around mortgage is a mortgage whose face value encompasses the unpaid balance of the first mortgage(s) plus the amount of any new funds extended by the wrap-around lender. ''Combination of the above'' means that there were more than one method of origination for the outstanding mortgages on the property.

Payment plans of primary and secondary mortgages. Data are presented separately for primary and secondary mortgages. The term ''payment'' refers to regular principal and interest payments only, and not to payments for real estate taxes, property insurance, etc. Fixed payment, self amortizing mortgages have payments that do not change during the term of the loan, with the principal payments sufficient to pay off the loan completely within the stated term. Adjustable rate mortgages are mortgages whose interest rates could be changed during the life of the mortgage changing the amount of the payments required. In adjustable term mortgages, the amount of the payments stays constant, but the number of payments required to pay off the loan can change over time as interest rates change. Graduated payment mortgages allow monthly payments to change during the term of the mortgage by means other than a change in interest rate. These mortgages begin with lower payments that rise later in the life of the mortgage. Balloon mortgages are mortgages in which only part or none of the principal is paid off during the term of the loan (which commonly is about 5 years). At the end of the term the principal is paid off in one lump sum, refinanced with a new loan, or extended by renewal of the loan.

Lenders of primary and secondary mortgages. This item is restricted to units with two or more mortgages. The data are classified by whether the money was borrowed from a firm (bank or other organization), the seller of the property, or from another individual. Other organizations consist of mortgage corporations, pension plans, credit unions, savings and loan associations, etc. Individuals include anyone who was not the most recent owner.

Items included in primary mortgage payment. The respondent was asked to indicate which items were included in the monthly mortgage payment besides principal and interest. These items included property taxes, property insurance, and other charges. Other charges that may include insurance premiums, disability insurances, life insurances, etc., may tally in more than one category.

Year primary mortgage originated. The year the primary mortgage was originated is the year the mortgage was signed. Medians for year primary mortgage originated are rounded to the nearest year.

Term of primary mortgage at origination or assumption. Term is the number of years from the date the new owners first obtained the present mortgage to the date the

last payment is due according to the terms of the contract. Medians for term of primary mortgage are rounded to the nearest year.

Remaining years mortgaged. The owner or owner's spouse was asked the length of time it would take to pay off the loan at the current payments. The response reflects the amortization schedule. Medians for remaining years mortgage are rounded to the nearest year.

Current interest rate. This item refers to the annual percentage rate in effect as of the date of the interview, not the rate when the mortgage was made, nor any imminent changes of which the respondent may be aware. Medians for current interest rate are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Total outstanding principal amount. The statistics shown represent the total amount of principal that would have to be paid off if the loan were paid off in full on the date of interview. The formula used to calculate the outstanding principal amount does not take into account the fact that some households make additional principal payments. The resulting data, therefore, may be an overestimate of the total outstanding principal. Medians for outstanding principal amount are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Current total loan as percent of value. This percentage is computed by dividing the outstanding principal amount by the value of the housing unit. Medians for loan as a percent of value are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

Monthly housing costs. The data are presented for owner- and renter-occupied housing units as well as vacant-for-rent units. Monthly housing costs for owner-occupied units is the sum of monthly payments for all mortgages or installment loans or contracts, real estate taxes (including taxes on mobile homes or trailer sites if the site is owned), property insurance, homeowners association fee, cooperative or condominium fee, mobile home park fee, land rent, utilities (electricity, gas, water, and sewage disposal), fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.), and garbage and trash collection. As of 1989, data on the costs of electricity and gas are collected differently (see ''Monthly costs of electricity and gas'' definition). Because of this, ''Monthly housing costs'' in 1989 and beyond may not be entirely comparable with data published in previous years.

For renter-occupied housing units, monthly housing costs include the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, water, and sewage disposal), and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.); property insurance, mobile home land rent, and garbage and trash collection if these items are paid for by the renter (or paid for by someone else, such as a relative, welfare agency, or friend) in addition to rent. Renter housing units occupied without payment of cash rent are shown separately as no cash rent. For rental units subsidized by a public housing authority, the Federal government, or State or local governments, the monthly rental costs reflect only the portion paid by the household and not the portion subsidized. Before 1991, the monthly rental costs may have included the amount subsidized for many subsidized units.

Monthly housing costs for vacant-for-rent housing units include rent asked. In 1995 and earlier, the category, ''less than $100,'' includes an estimated 166,000 housing units with a code ''1.'' These units were incorrectly coded as having an asking rent of $1.00. A code ''1'' actually means that the asking rent depends on the income of the occupants, such as in public housing or some military housing. This misclassification has existed in earlier years so there is no change in 1995 data over previous years. In the 1997 survey, a separate line, ''depends on income of the occupants'' will be added to the item.

Monthly housing costs are shown for all renters and all owners. Table 19 in this report presents financial characteristics for specified owners and specified renters. Medians for monthly housing costs are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Monthly housing costs as percent of current income. The yearly housing costs (monthly housing costs multiplied by 12) are expressed as a percentage of the total current income (see definition of current income.) This percentage is calculated for the same owner- and renter- occupied housing units for which ''Monthly housing costs'' were computed (for exclusions see ''Monthly housing costs''). The percentage was computed separately for each unit and rounded to the nearest percent. The measure was not computed for units where occupants reported no income or a net loss. Before 1989, the item ''Monthly housing costs as percent of income,'' was computed by using the income of family and primary individuals only. It was felt that respondents who only recently entered the job market or who changed jobs during the past year often reported a previous year's income, which was too low to accurately reflect their current situation. In addition to a change in the source of income used in calculations, the item uses new procedures to estimate the costs of electricity and gas (see ''Monthly costs of electricity and gas'' definition).

Monthly costs for electricity and gas. Beginning in 1989, two procedures were introduced that attempt to correct the overreporting of electricity and gas costs in the AHS. In the first procedure, respondents were asked the amount of their electricity and/or gas bill for the previous months of January, April, August, and December. These months are the best predictors of annual costs. If the respondent provided data for at least 3 of the 4 months, the results were used to provide an annual estimate of costs. This estimate was then divided by 12 to provide average monthly costs.

The second procedure was applied to the remaining units. If the respondents did not know the amount of their electricity and/or gas bill for at least 3 of the 4 months, we

used their estimate of average monthly costs. A factor was then applied that, in effect, lowered these costs to make them consistent with electricity and gas costs reported in the Residential Energy Consumption Survey sponsored by the United States Department of Energy. Before 1989, respondents were only asked to provide an estimate of average monthly costs. Research done using the 1987 AHS has shown that this approach produces 15 to 20 percent overestimates of electricity and gas costs. The new procedures produce lower and more accurate estimates. On average, more than one-third of the respondents provided answers for at least 3 of the 4 months.

Median monthly housing costs for owners. Two additional medians are shown separately for owner-occupied units. The first median includes maintenance costs in addition to those items included in ''Monthly housing costs,'' see above item. The second excludes second and subsequent mortgages, installment loans or contracts, and maintenance costs; but includes all remaining items listed in ''Monthly housing costs.''

Rent paid by lodgers. This item refers to a regular fixed rent, a set amount of money, billed or charged, that is paid at regular intervals by a lodger (usually weekly or monthly) to a member of the household. The data are restricted to lodgers who are 14 years of age or older, nonrelatives of the householder or any co-owners or co-renters, and not a co-owner or co-renter themselves. Medians for rent paid by lodgers are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Property insurance. This item refers to homeowner's/household's property insurance on the structure and its contents (such as furniture, appliances, clothing, etc.) and usually contains some liability insurance to protect occupants should visitors have an accident on the premises. Renters usually have household property insurance. The total cost is the most recent charges for the 12-month period preceding the interview for which the occupants have actually been billed. Yearly cost was divided by 12 before calculating a monthly median cost. Medians for property insurance are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Cost and ownership sharing. This item is restricted to owner-occupied housing units. Shared ownership is two or more names on a deed or title. Shared costs include only payments designated for mortgage or utility costs, whether paid directly to a mortgage or utility company, or to household members. ''Not living here'' means that one of the persons sharing the ownership or costs is not a household member.

Monthly payment for principal and interest. The data present the monthly dollar amount paid on the mortgage for principal and interest only. It does not include that portion of the monthly payment used for property taxes, homeowner insurance, and/or other charges. Medians for monthly payment for principal and interest are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Real estate taxes. This item includes special assessments, school taxes, county taxes, and any other real estate taxes. Excluded are payments on delinquent taxes due from prior years. Rebates are subtracted from the total. When the real estate taxes are included with the mortgage, a separate amount for the taxes is obtained. To determine average monthly cost, yearly cost was divided by 12. Medians for real estate taxes are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Annual taxes paid per $1,000 value. The annual real estate taxes paid per $1,000 value of the property (house and lot) are presented. Medians for taxes per $1,000 value are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Routine maintenance in last year. Routine maintenance consists of regular maintenance activities necessary for the preventive care of the structure, property and fixed equipment items. Included are such things as painting, papering, floor sanding, restoration of some shingles, fixing of water pipes, replacement of parts of large equipment, such as furnace, repairing fences, gutters, sidewalks, decks, or patios, removal of dangerous trees, termite inspection, etc. Housecleaning is not included. Routine maintenance does not include work reported under the section on repairs, improvements and alterations. Medians for routine maintenance are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Condominium and cooperative fee. A condominium fee is a fee charged to the owners of the individual condominium unit on a regular basis. The fee covers all operating and maintenance costs of the common property; for example, halls, lobby, parking areas, laundry room, swimming pool, etc., and related administrative costs, such as utilities billed communally, management fees, etc.

The cooperative maintenance fee for a cooperative unit (also called carrying charges) is based on a percentage developed by dividing the value of the unit by the total value of the project at the time the cooperative corporation was formed. A cooperative maintenance fee is the share of the annual budget to be borne by the member living in the sample unit, including his/her share of the annual amount paid by the cooperative for real estate taxes, mortgage interest and operating cost. Medians for condominium and cooperative fees are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Other housing costs per month. A homeowners' association fee (excludes condominiums and cooperatives fees) is a fee charged for services such as upkeep of common property (painting hallways, cleaning lobbies, mowing lawns, repairing laundry facilities, paving parking areas, repairing street lights, etc.). The fee may include the use and maintenance of either indoor or outdoor swimming facilities or other recreational facilities (party rooms, tennis courts, basketball courts, exercise rooms, playground areas, etc.). Also the homeowners' association fee can include payments for security personnel such as security guards or

services such as telephone answering service, maid service, or other domestic help. Mobile home park fees are regular payments to the park management that could include site rental, utility charges, mail handling, and/or fees for the maintenance of common areas. In a few areas of the country, the people may own the unit, but not the land on which it stands. Land rent refers to land that is rented or leased from the land owner, and ''ground rent'' is paid. These leases are for long periods of time (50-100 years) when originated. The lease obligation transfers with the property and cannot be canceled. Medians for other housing costs are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Rent reductions. Rent control means that an increase in rent is regulated by law. The jurisdiction, State or local, mandates that percentage rent increases are set and must be approved by a board, agency, department, division, office, etc.

A housing unit is classified as being in a public housing project if the structure in which the unit is located is owned by any local or State government agency, such as a housing and redevelopment authority or a housing development agency, and operated as public housing. These organizations may receive subsidies from the Federal or State government, but the local agency owns the property.

A housing unit is classified as being subsidized if under certain programs the respondent pays a lower rent because a Federal, State, or local government program pays part of the cost of construction, building mortgage, or operating expenses. These programs include (1) the rental assistance program where part of the rent for low-income families occupying the rental housing units is paid by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), (2) the FHA interest subsidy programs for rental and cooperative housing for low-income families, (3) the rent supplement program where part of the rent for low-income families occupying certain types of HUD-assisted rental housing projects is paid by the FHA, and (4) the direct loan program of HUD for housing the elderly. Units requiring income verification are subsidized units.

Other activities on property. Data presented excludes rental units. Property consists of one or more tracts of land that the respondent considers to be the same property, farm, ranch, estate. The tracts may be adjoining or they may be separated by a road, creek, or other piece of land. A commercial establishment may be located in the same building as the sample unit, or it may be located elsewhere on the property (grocery store, restaurant, gasoline station, or veterinary office). Those housing units that have no recognizable alterations to the outside of the house are not considered as having a commercial establishment. For a condominium, this item refers to the sample unit only. A farm is not classified as a commercial establishment. A medical or dental office is a doctor's or dentist's office regularly visited by patients.

Repairs, improvements, alterations in last 2 years. The statistics refer to the 24 months prior to the date of the interview and are restricted to owner-occupied units. The data are presented according to whether the repairs, improvements, and alterations cost less than $500 or $500 or more. The total cost of the labor and materials was to be reported. However, if the labor was performed by the occupants or provided without charge, only the cost of the materials was obtained. The cost pertains to the sum of the costs of the jobs if there were more than one job within the 2-year period.

Repairs

Roofs. Work begun, but never completed, was not counted unless the work was currently in progress. All jobs were included no matter how small.

Additions. An addition is floor space built onto, above, or below an existing house in order to increase the enclosed space within the house. All work must have been done after the original construction.

Kitchens. Kitchens added to space already enclosed within the structure were counted. Remodeling a kitchen could include replacing or adding installed equipment such as a garbage disposal, trash compactor, stove, or refrigerator; or it could include replacing or adding cabinets, counter tops, floors or lighting.

Bathrooms. Bathrooms added to space already enclosed within the structure were counted. Remodeling a bathroom could include replacing or adding installed equipment such as a shower door and fixtures, or vanity; or replacing or adding cabinets, counter tops, floors, or lighting.

Siding. Work begun, but never completed, was not counted unless the work was currently in progress. All jobs were included no matter how small.

Storm doors/windows. Used storm doors/windows were counted if new to the unit. Windows or doors, which were purchased but not yet installed, were counted as long as the intentions were to install them.

Major equipment. Only installed equipment was counted. Dehumidifiers, heating equipment, portable dishwashers, or any other equipment that simply plugged in was not counted. Water heaters and heat pumps were counted as major equipment.

Insulation. Insulation included all forms of materials (foam, weather stripping, caulking) which is to remain in place. Plastic taped over windows in winter, but removed in summer was not counted.

Other major work. This category includes other major repairs, alterations, or improvements totaling over $500 each.

Government subsidy for repairs. Low interest loans are loans more than one percent below the current market rate for home improvements at the time the loan was made. The loans are designed by specific government programs for the purpose of home repair, and the money must be spent that way. Government programs can be Federal, State, or local.

Household Characteristics

Household. A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. By definition, the count of households is the same as the count of occupied housing units.

Householder. The householder is the first household member 18 years old and over who is the owner or renter of the sample unit. If no household member occupying the sample unit owns or rents the unit, the householder is the first household member listed who is 18 years old or older. In cases where no household member listed owns or rents the unit or is 18 years or older, the first household member listed is the householder.

Household composition by age of householder. Statistics by age of householder are presented separately for two-or-more-person households and for one-person households. Households having two or more persons are further subdivided as follows:

Married-couple families, no nonrelatives. Each household in this group consists of the householder and spouse, and other persons, if any, all of whom are related to the householder.

Other male householder. This category includes households with male householders who are married, but with wife absent because of separation or other reason where husband and wife maintain separate residences; and male householders who are widowed, divorced, or single. Also included are households with male householder, wife present and nonrelatives living with them.

Other female householder. This category includes households with female householders who are married, but with husband absent because of separation or other reason where husband and wife maintain separate residences; and female householders who are widowed, divorced, or single. Also included are households with female householder, husband present, and nonrelatives living with them.

Households consisting of only one person are shown separately for male householder and female householder under the category ''one-person households.''

Family or primary individual. Housing units are occupied by either families or primary individuals. The term ''family'' refers to the householder and all (one or more) other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. If the householder lives alone or with nonrelatives only, then the householder is considered a primary individual.

Married couples related to the householder of a family are included in the family and are not considered as separate families unless they reside in separate living quarters. A lodger, servant, or other person unrelated to the householder is considered a member of the household but not of the family.

In the statistics on household composition, families are always included in one of the three major groups of two-or-more-person households. Primary individuals with nonrelatives living with them are tabulated as two-or-more-person households and further subdivided as other male householder or female householder. Primary individuals living alone are always tabulated as one-person households.

Subfamily. A subfamily is a married couple with or without children or one parent with one or more own single (never married) children under 18 years old living in a household and related to the householder or spouse. The most common example of a subfamily is a young married couple sharing the home of the husband's or wife's parents.

Age of householder. The age classification refers to the age reported for the householder as of that person's last birthday.

Elderly. Data for elderly include all households with a householder of 65 years of age or over.

Own never-married children under 18 years old. Statistics on presence of own children of householders are shown in this report. A child under 18 years old is defined as an own child if he or she is a single (never married) son, daughter, stepchild, or adopted child of a householder. Own children of subfamilies are excluded from the total count of own children.

Other relative of householder. This category includes all persons related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption except spouse or own child under 18 years old.

Nonrelative. A nonrelative of the householder is any person in the household who is not related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. Roomers, boarders, lodgers, partners, resident employees, wards, and foster children are included in this category.

Educational attainment of the householder. Data on educational attainment are derived from a question that asks, ''What is the highest level of school... completed or

the highest degree... has received?'' The question on educational attainment applied only to progress in ''regular'' schools. Regular schools refers to public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior), colleges, universities, and professional schools. The question included response categories which allowed persons to report the level of previous grade attended or the highest degree received for persons currently enrolled in school The category high school graduate included persons who received either a high school diploma or the equivalent, for example; passed the Test of General Educational Development (G.E.D) and did not attend college. Education received in vocational, trade, and business schools is also included. The category ''Associate degree'' includes persons whose highest degree is an associate degree in (1) an occupational program that prepares them for a specific occupation, and the course work may or may not be creditable toward a bachelor's degree or (2) an academic program primarily in the arts and sciences, and the course work in transferable to a bachelor's degree. Some examples of professional degrees include medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and law. Schooling in other than regular schools is counted only if the credits obtained are regarded as transferable in the regular school system.

To obtain the total number of high school graduates, add 1) high school graduates (includes equivalency), 2) graduates with some college, no degree, 3) with an associate degree, 4) with a bachelor's degree, and 5) with a graduate degree. To obtain the total number of graduates with a bachelor's degree, add (1) with a bachelor's degree and (2) with a graduate or professional degree.

Single children under 18 years old. Single children include all persons under 18 years of age, who may or may not be related to the householder and who are not married (i.e., widowed, divorced, separated, or never been married) at the time of the interview.

Adults and single children under 18 years old. Data are shown for all single children whether related to the householder or not by the age categories under 6 years old, 6 to 17 years old, and households containing children in both age groups. The data are further divided by households headed by a married couple, other households with two or more adults, and households with one adult or none.

Persons other than spouse or children. Data are shown for households with the following types of people:

Single adult offspring 18 to 29. This category is restricted to persons who are offspring of the householder or the householder's spouse, 18 to 29 years of age, and not currently married.

Single adult offspring 30 years of age or over. This category is restricted to persons who are offspring of the householder or the householder's spouse, 30 years of age or over, and not currently married.

Households with three generations. This category includes situations where (1) both one or more children of the householder or spouse and one or more parents of the householder or spouse live in the unit, (2) both one or more parents of the householder or spouse and one or more grandparents of the householder or spouse, and (3) both one or more children of the householder or spouse and one or more grandchildren of the householder or spouse.

Households with one subfamily. For households with only one subfamily, data are shown for subfamily householders under 30 years of age, 30 to 64 years of age, and 65 years of age and over.

Households with other types of relatives. This category excludes households where the only relatives of the householder present are the householder's spouse or children, and households where no relative of the householder is present.

Co-owners or co-renters. This category includes all households where more than one household member's name is on the deed of ownership, mortgage, land contract, contract to purchase, or similar document; or more than one household members' name is on the lease, or, if there is no lease, more than one household member is responsible for paying the rent.

Lodgers. Counts of lodgers are restricted to households with members unrelated to the householder, and who are 14 years of age and over and are not co-owners, co-renters, or children of co-owners or co-renters who pay rent to another household member.

Unrelated children under 18 years old. This category includes all households with members under 18 years of age who are unrelated to the householder or spouse. The members under 18 cannot be co-owners, co-renters, or lodgers.

Other non-relatives. This category includes all households with members 18 years of age and over who are unrelated to the householder or spouse. The members 18 and over cannot be co-owners, co-renters, or lodgers.

One or more secondary families. A secondary family is a group of two persons or more who are related to each other by birth, marriage, or adoption, but who are not related to the householder. The unrelated secondary family may include persons such as guests, roomers, boarders, or resident employees and their relatives living in a household. The number of unrelated secondary family members is included in the number of household members but is not included in the count of family members.

Households, none related to each other. None of the household members are related to any other household member. Persons other than the householder may be co-owners, co-renters, or lodgers.

Household moves and formation. Data are shown for households that moved into the present unit during the 12 months prior to the date of the interview. The distribution is further classified by (1) whether the household moved together from the same unit, from two or more units, or moved at separate times, and (2) if previous householder(s) moved into the present unit.