

Appendix C.

Historical Changes: 2011

The American Housing Survey (AHS) began in 1973 as the Annual Housing Survey. Since 1981, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted the national survey every odd-numbered year. In 1984, it was renamed the American Housing Survey.

Only changes for the 2011 survey year are noted in this appendix. Historical changes prior to 2011 are available in previous publications, which can be found in PDF format online at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/data.html/all.html.

Beginning with the 2011 AHS, the survey instrument consists of a permanent set of core questions, plus questions on topical supplements that will rotate in and out of the survey on a schedule that has yet to be determined.

In order to reflect these changes, as well as the incorporation of AHS tables into American FactFinder (AFF), the 2011 table numbers have been reconfigured to a new 5-character table-numbering scheme in the following format: X-XX-XX. The first character in the table number, or table ID, begins with either a “C” for core table or an “S” for supplemental table.

The two characters in the middle of the new table ID are the actual table numbers (2-digits), followed by the chapter (2-letters). Tables formerly in Chapter 1 can now be identified by an “AH” (all housing units) in the table ID. Likewise, tables formerly in Chapter 2, Chapter 3, and Chapter 4 are now identified by an “AO” (all occupied units), “OO” (owner-occupied), and “RO” (renter-occupied), respectively. In addition, many of the tables were redesigned in an effort to better group items by topic. As a result, boxheads (column headings) and stubs (row headings) have changed significantly from prior years. A crosswalk between the old tables (2009 and prior) and the new 2011 tables is available online at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/data/2011/table-crosswalk.html. Metropolitan Area tables are identified by the addition of an “M” as the sixth character in the table ID (X-XX-XX-M).

New Tables:

Home improvement information has been reintroduced to the 2011 American Housing Survey’s set of core tables as Table C-15-OO—“Home Improvement Characteristics” and Table C-16-OO—“Home Improvement Costs.” Similar tables were formerly found in the *Supplement to the American Housing Survey for the United States*, from 1995–2009; and prior to that, Table 16—“Repairs, Improvements, and Alterations” in the *American Housing Survey for the United States* reports.

Former Table 25—“Units in Structure by Selected Characteristics” in the *American Housing Survey for the United States* report (2007 and prior) was also reintroduced as three new core tables: C-12-AO, C-12-OO, and C-12-RO—“General Characteristics by Units in Structure.”

The 2011 AHS includes topical supplements on potential health and safety hazards in the home and housing modifications made to assist occupants living with disabilities. Supplemental Table S-01—“Health and Safety Characteristics” includes data from the Healthy Homes module of the survey, as well as the Safety Equipment stub from old Table 4—“Selected Equipment and Plumbing.” Supplemental Table S-02—“Disabilities and Home Accessibility” includes disability questions from the 2009 AHS (formerly found in Table 9—“Household Composition,” as well as questions from the new housing modification module.

New Items:

In addition to the new tables discussed above, the following items were added to existing tables:

Air Conditioning. This item used to be a part of Equipment.

Energy Efficiency.

Energy Star® Rated Appliances.

Frequency of Interest Rate Adjustments for Primary Mortgages.

How Respondent Found Current Unit.

Information Needed to Obtain Primary Mortgage.

Monthly Mortgage Payment.

Monthly Mortgage Payment as Percent of Current Income.

Monthly Payment Change of Primary Mortgage Over Last 12 Months.

Mortgage Refinancing Solicitation.

Other Central Air Fuel.

Potential Winter Heating Hazards.

Reasons for Choosing Primary Mortgage.

Reason Primary Mortgage Payment Changed Over Last 12 Months.

Reference Interest Rate for Primary Mortgages With Varying Payments.

Safety of Well Water.

Selected Amenities. Telephone now available for All Housing (AH) units.

Vehicle Parking. Formerly a part of Selected Amenities stub.

Modified Tables:

Although the mortgage questions essentially ask respondents the same types of information as in the past, the 2011 AHS mortgage module was rearranged and questions were asked in a different order.

Former Table 15—“Mortgage Characteristics” was split into two new tables: C-14A-OO—“Mortgage Characteristics” and C-14B-OO—“Additional Mortgage Characteristics.”

Prior to 2011, there were two categories of recent movers shown: (1) units where the householder moved into the present unit during the 12 months prior to the interview from another location in the United States (shown as a column in most tables, and in Table 10 of Chapters 2 through 4), and (2) units where the respondent moved into the present housing unit during the 12 months prior to the interview (Table 11 of Chapters 2 through 4). All recent mover data shown in 2011, however, represent units where the respondent moved into the present housing unit during the 12 months prior to the interview from another location in the United States. This change was made in order to make the two recent movers tables (C-06 and C-07) comparable. In most cases, this does not significantly change the data because the respondent is often the same person as the householder.

Modified Items:

Cooking Fuel. Kerosene, coal, and wood were collapsed into the “Other” category.

Disabilities. Formerly in Table 9—“Household Composition,” this item is now located in table S-02—“Disabilities and Home Accessibility”.

Government Subsidy for Repairs and Alterations. Added “and alterations” to label to more accurately reflect data collected.

Guarantors of Primary Mortgages. Label changed from Type of Primary Mortgage.

How Acquired. First occupant in single-family unit built “1990 or later” changed to “2010 or later.”

Kitchen and Laundry Equipment. Formerly labeled as “Equipment.” The air conditioning portion of this stub was separated and given its own stub heading.

Lenders of Primary and Secondary Mortgages. Labeling of firms changed to “financial institutions” and other individuals changed to “another source.”

Main Reason for Leaving Previous Residence.

Previously read “Main Reason for Leaving Previous Unit.” New category added for leaving previous residence because of foreclosure. In addition, items were recategorized under new subtotals. “Other” was added as a new answer option in some of the categories.

Manufactured/Mobile Home Anchoring. Label changed from “Manufactured/Mobile Home Tiedowns.”

Mortgages Currently on Property, Number of Regular Mortgages and Home Equity Mortgages, Types of Mortgages. “Not reported” lines deleted.

Payment Plan of Primary and Secondary Mortgage. “Payment option” and “interest only” rows are new for 2011.

Plumbing Facilities. Formerly “Plumbing.”

Previous Home Owned or Rented by Current Household Member. Previously read “Previous Home Owned or Rented by Someone Who Moved Here.”

Reasons for Leaving Previous Residence. Previously read “Reasons for Leaving Previous Unit.” New category for leaving previous residence because of foreclosure. In addition, items were recategorized under new subtotals. “Other” was added as a new answer option in some of the categories.

Reason Primary Mortgage Refinanced. Categories were revised to reflect new answer categories for 2011.

Safety Equipment. Formerly in Table 4—“Equipment and Plumbing,” this item is now located in Table S-01—“Health and Safety Characteristics”.

Selected Amenities. Formerly in Table 7—“Additional Indicators of Housing Quality,” this item is now located in Table C-02—“Rooms, Size, and Amenities.” The vehicle parking items from this stub were taken out and made into a new stub item called “Vehicle Parking.”

Selected Deficiencies. The reference period for the questions of signs of rats, mice, or rodents changed from in the last 3 months to in the last 12 months. A new row, “sign of cockroaches,” was also added to the stub.

Source of Drinking Water. Spring, cistern, stream, or lake were collapsed into the “Other” category.

Vehicles Available. The number of vehicles available (including cars, trucks, and vans) was added to the “Cars and Trucks Available” stub. The stub was then renamed “Vehicles Available.”

Water Heating Fuel. Kerosene, coal, and wood were collapsed into the “Other” category.

Year Householder Immigrated to the United States. New category added (2010 to 2014).

Year Householder Moved Into Unit. New category added (2010 to 2014).

Year Primary Mortgage Originated. New category added (2010 to 2014).

Year Structure Built. New category added (2010 to 2014).

Deleted Tables:

The majority of the neighborhood and journey to work questions were dropped from the 2011 AHS. As a result, Table 8—"Neighborhood" was deleted from the 2011 publication. The "Overall Opinion of Neighborhood" stub moved into Table C-07—"Housing and Neighborhood Search and Satisfaction." The "Manufactured/Mobile Homes in Group" stub moved into Table C-01—"General Housing Data."

Deleted Items:

The following stubs were deleted from the All Housing Units (AH) tables (formerly Chapter 1): **External Building Conditions, Primary Source of Water, Safety of Primary Source of Water, Plumbing Facilities, Means of Sewage Disposal, Safety Equipment, Owner or Manager on Property,** and **Selected Deficiencies.**

Access to Structure.

Land Contract.

Percent of Nonrefinanced Primary Mortgage, Including Home-Equity Lump Sum, Used for Home Purchase and Improvement.

Previous Occupancy.

Special Living.

Tenure.

General note: In many cases, not reported lines were added (to show a more complete picture) or dropped due to allocation or instances where they were no longer applicable.