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Realignment in the Demographic Statistical Methods Division

by Ruth Ann Killion

The realignment of the Demographic Directorate at the Census Bureau has focused on the establishment of survey teams and the selection of Survey Directors and Assistant Survey Directors. Another aspect of the realignment deals with the structure of the Service Providers and how they shift their paradigms to provide better service to the teams.

The Service Providers are shown in the following chart.

Service Provider #1, the mathematical statistical support function, is embedded in the Demographic Statistical Methods Division (DSMD). The following article briefly describes the process DSMD used and the decisions made to change our structure and practices to be a more efficient support service and to provide more opportunities for innovation.

A small team of managers was set up in DSMD, with additional staff from the Economic and Decennial Directorates. The team started with a literature review on organizational structures and an analysis of how

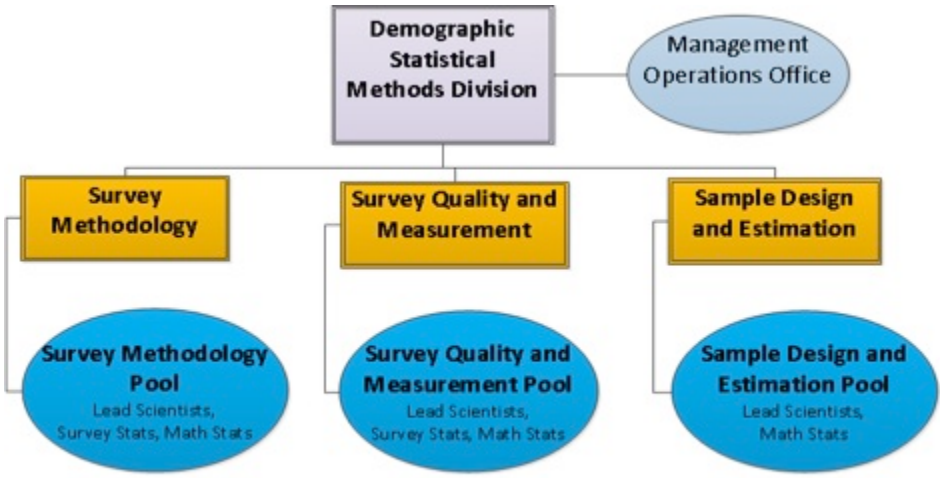
different structures work in different environments. The new survey team structure in DSMD is ideally suited for a matrix management organization structure.

The team considered topics ranging from overall management philosophy to the respective value of organizing by function or by survey, and how to allow flexibility for research across surveys, to mundane decisions about who approves requests for leave. The group brainstormed ideas and came up with more than ten possibilities. They ranged from keeping the current Assistant Division Chief/Branch/Section alignment to a structure with no definition below the level of the Division Chief. Some branches in the existing division structure were survey specific, while others were more functional in nature and worked across all surveys.

The team consulted with nonprofit sector leaders in the survey world to gather information about how they meet the challenges of constantly changing requirements and innovation. Topics included issues such as how to have people available when unanticipated needs arise and how to hire staff in a way that enables flexibility. The consultants spent three days talking to people all over the Census Bureau about how things operate now and they made some profound recommendations. The most dramatic recommendation was to abolish the branch structure. The reasoning is that, with the branch structure, branch chiefs normally consider that their employees belong to their branch and staff time is devoted to activities related to their specific survey. However, with this structure, someone in one branch could be doing work that has no urgency, while another branch may have a major project that languishes due to lack of available staff. The DSMD team then set out to adapt the potential structures to address this issue directly.

After extensive discussions addressing many facets of the potential new organization, a day-long offsite meeting was held for the division's senior managers and the restructuring team. With cooperation of the union, several junior employees were able to participate to give their input. The team's recommendation was to radically change the current structure and it was important to obtain reactions from staff that would be affected. Ultimately, five additional teams were set up to deal with particular aspects of the restructuring, such as Performance Management, development of a Skills Matrix, and assignment of staff to be Lead Scientists.

The new structure for DSMD is shown in the following chart.



The yellow boxes represent the three Assistant Division Chiefs (ADCs) in DSMD and their Program Assistants. The three turquoise circles are pools of employees assigned to that ADC. The blue circle (Management Operations Office) attached to the Division Chief's office contains a combination of the project management staff and two Resource Managers.

Resource Managers are very important in the new structure. They are responsible for keeping an up-to-date list of available staff resources and an up-to-date skills matrix for the division's staff and for administrative management. There are no Branch Chiefs and no branches. The former Branch Chiefs are now called Lead Scientists, and each is assigned as the technical lead for a group of surveys as well as a particular cross-survey research topic.

Lead Scientists will also lead a “home,” which will have staff interested in the overarching research topic of a survey and of the Lead Scientist. We are currently in the process of assigning staff to homes. The Lead Scientists are writing up their research topics and staff development philosophies. Staff will then rank all of the Lead Scientists, and the Lead Scientists will rank the staff interested in their work. We will then use the algorithm developed by Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley, who won the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for their work on how to match different agents, to come to “best mutual matches.” With this process, people may be responsible to more than one Lead Scientist – one will lead the technical and quality work on a survey they work on and the other will be their home Lead Scientist.

DSMD plans to implement these changes by March 1, 2013. We are already applying the concepts to new work and have been able to assign staff to several urgent tasks for our survey sponsors. We will keep you updated on our continued implementation!

Field Division's Realignment and the Quality of Survey Estimates

by Ruth Ann Killion

In last month’s issue of *Survey News*, Tim Olson, Assistant Division Chief in the Field Division, explained Field’s realignment program that reduced the number of Census Bureau regional offices by half (from 12 to 6) and restructured how the Census Bureau’s survey data collection is managed. To evaluate the effects of this historic effort – it was the most significant revision to the Census Bureau’s field structure in more than 50 years -- the Demographic Statistical Methods Division Data Monitoring Team utilized both scientific and technological approaches to build a data-monitoring program. The program analyzed data in real time to identify and communicate when the Regional Office realignment may have influenced the quality of survey estimates. Six household surveys and 46 survey estimates were monitored daily across seven waves from January 2012 through December 2012.

For each key variable in this study, either a logistic or a linear regression model was developed. The measure chosen to study a possible management effect was the estimated coefficient on an indicator that the case came from a Field Representative managed in the new system. In predicting survey responses, we tested whether each coefficient was significant, while controlling for other factors.

Each test displayed much like a quality control chart, in which 95% confidence bounds centered at zero and the coefficient fluctuated from day to day. A report of which coefficients were “out of bounds” went to Census senior management every workday from the start of January through the end of November. On average, less than 10% of the 46 coefficients were out of bounds. By the end of December, three were out of bounds. We anticipated over 5% of estimates would fall outside the 95% confidence bounds even if there were no management effect. To help address this, we updated our regression models multiple times to control for new factors. For example, an obvious cyclical pattern developed in the coefficient estimates for one of our variables until we controlled for “day of interview” later in the year.

Nonresponse variables were initially out of scope for this project. However, a later request was to study certain *Don’t Know and Refusal* (i.e., item nonresponse) variables. We found that these were consistently out of bounds, and often by a large amount. This effect could have been due to the change in Field’s management structure, but this was not a randomized study. These variables accounted for most of the variables that were out of bounds. We believe we were not able to build good models for this type of variable. Therefore, at most, these results may suggest the need for further study as we adapt this monitoring system for future use, such as in Redesign.

All in all, we saw no patterns to suggest that there was a problem with data quality based on Field Division’s restructuring.

The National Survey of College Graduates: Recent Updates

by Stephanie Coffey

Data collection for the 2013 National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) begins on February 21. In an effort to incorporate adaptive design capabilities into the survey, the 2013 NSCG will include flow processing and a mode switching experiment.

Each day, survey data will flow through editing, imputation, and weighting procedures, producing rough estimates based on the daily state of data collection. Incorporating processing into the data collection period that used to occur after the end of data collection will provide several benefits. Operationally, issues that arise during processing can be resolved earlier in data collection, and it will be easier to see the effects of procedural changes (e.g., a change in imputation rules) more quickly, allowing for system adaptation.

Daily flow processing also allows statisticians to examine semi-final estimates and gauge the quality of those estimates "if data collection were stopped" on any given day. Flow processing is also required for the development of adaptive design business rules based on data quality measures. Daily estimates will allow the NSCG team to monitor quality measures including benchmarking and stability of estimates.

The 2013 NSCG also includes a mode-switching experiment aimed at using sample, response, and contact data to actively manage the data collection mode of a case. The goal of this experiment is two-fold: operationally, to determine the potential for and difficulties of implementing adaptive design at the Bureau, and procedurally, to explore whether data modeling for mode switching can reduce unproductive contact attempts by matching an individual with their preferred mode more quickly. The mode switching experiment has a sample size of 4,000 New Cohort cases.

Cases in the mode switching experiment will have a flexible pathway, hopefully reducing the amount of time and number of contact attempts needed before getting a successful response. All cases in the mode switching experiment will start in the web mode. As response, contact, and cost data accumulate, there will be weekly meetings to determine what, if any, interventions should be taken. Possible interventions include: putting cases on hold in CATI to reduce expensive contact attempts for low-impact cases unlikely to respond; switching contact mode to maximize response probability, perhaps by sending a case to CATI earlier than originally planned if the respondent seems more likely to respond via telephone; or, eventually, even stopping data collection altogether. If additional respondents are not adding information to survey estimates, or if estimates have stabilized, additional contact attempts may not be worth the cost.

Using response status, paradata (e.g., number of attempted contacts), and frame data associated with sample cases, differences between the respondent and non-respondent populations can be evaluated, leading to more targeted data collection (of a specific person or group) in an attempt to make the respondent population better represent the sample population. This is an improvement over simply trying to maximize a response rate. Treating all cases similarly may result in getting additional respondents who are "more of the same," as opposed to respondents from underrepresented groups whose response could improve the overall data quality of the survey.

The Census Bureau Will Allow American Community Survey Participants to Respond via the Internet

The American Community Survey, the most detailed portrait of America's towns and neighborhoods, is now more convenient for most participants with the added availability of responding online. "The online response option is part of an ongoing digital transformation at the Census Bureau," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's acting director. "The Census Bureau is transforming to make responding to surveys more convenient, conducting surveys more cost-effective, and America's statistics more accessible on digital and mobile devices."

Households selected to participate in the American Community Survey will receive a letter in the mail with instructions about how to log in to the secure website and complete the survey online.
When using the online response option, participants will have the ability to review their answers and receive help. This response option, which is secure and confidential, will be available for almost everyone in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. If households selected to participate in the survey do not use the online response option, the Census Bureau will send them a paper questionnaire or contact them by phone or in person to obtain answers.

In addition to collecting information online, the Census Bureau is adding a series of questions on computer and Internet usage. The data gathered through these questions will become available beginning in 2014.

The American Community Survey is sent to more than 3.5 million housing unit addresses on a rotating basis throughout the year. The survey provides a wide range of important statistics about people and housing for every community across the nation. The results are widely used, for example, by town and city planners, retailers, and homebuilders. The survey is the only source of local estimates for most of the 40 topics it covers, such as education, occupation, language, ancestry, and housing costs for even the smallest communities.

“The people who respond to the American Community Survey contribute vital information that benefits their neighborhoods, towns, and cities,” Mesenbourg said. “That's why participation is so important.”
Ever since Thomas Jefferson directed the first census in 1790, the census has collected detailed characteristics about our nation's people. Questions about jobs and the economy were added 20 years later under James Madison, who said such information would allow Congress to “adapt the public measures to the particular circumstances of the community,” and over the decades, allow America “an opportunity of marking the progress of the society.”

The Census Bureau releases three sets of American Community Survey statistics each fall. First come single-year estimates for all areas with populations of 65,000 or more. Next is a corresponding set of three-year estimates covering areas with populations of 20,000 or more. Finally, five-year estimates for areas down to the neighborhood level are released at the end of the year.

2012 Economic Census Responses Are Due in February

The U.S. Census Bureau has mailed nearly 4 million forms to American businesses for the official twice-a-decade measure of the economy. While the mailing of economic census forms began in October, the majority were mailed starting in mid-December. The Census Bureau will collect responses until the February 12 deadline, unless an extension is filed.

“The economic census provides accurate benchmark statistics that are fundamental building blocks of economic indicators, such as the gross domestic product, monthly retail sales and the producer price index,” said Thomas Mesenbourg, acting director of the Census Bureau. “Information about the economy available only from the economic census helps businesses plan and grow, and helps guide government policies.”

The *2012 Economic Census* covers more than 1,000 industries in all sectors of the private, nonfarm economy. To create a snapshot of the American economy, the census asks businesses to provide basic information on revenue, employment and payroll, and industry-specific topics such as the products and services they provide.

Every five years — in years ending in “2” and “7” — the economic census collects reliable business statistics that are essential to understanding the American economy. The economic census is the only source providing information on industry revenues and other measures of American business performance that are consistent, comparable and comprehensive across industries and geographic areas.

Operational Details
The 2012 Economic Census results will be the earliest ever. Major innovations, such as enhanced electronic reporting software and a Web-based reporting option for smaller businesses, will make reporting easier. These innovations also will shorten the processing time, which in turn will allow the Census Bureau to release statistics in a timelier manner.

“For the first time, we intend to release preliminary results from the economic census within a year of the collection,” said William Bostic, Associate Director for Economic Programs at the Census Bureau. “Along with our monthly and quarterly economic indicators, the economic census will provide timely and relevant statistics that will give a good picture of American businesses.”

The Census Bureau will continue publishing the economic census results, with more detailed industry and geographic-level reports, through 2016. Complete information on the operational schedule of the economic census can be found at business.census.gov/schedule.

For More Information
Earlier this year, the Census Bureau launched a new website, business.census.gov, dedicated to informing the public about the economic census. The website features testimonials from business owners, government officials and other key individuals. The website also provides examples on how economic census statistics are used, including products such as business snapshots that provide quick overviews of numerous business statistics by industry and state.

Want to know more about the U.S. economy? America’s Economy is the first mobile app from the Census Bureau that provides smartphone and tablet users with the real-time government statistics that drive business hiring, sales and production decisions and assist economists, researchers, planners and policymakers. The economic indicators track monthly and quarterly trends in industries, such as employment, housing construction, international trade, personal income, retail sales and manufacturing.

Infographic on America's Foreign-Born Population

During the last 50 years, the foreign-born population of the United States has undergone dramatic changes in size, origins and geographic distribution. How do we know about America's foreign-born? This new infographic provides a statistical snapshot of our foreign-born population from the American Community Survey and the decennial censuses. It can be found at: https://www.census.gov/how/infographics/foreign_born.html.

United States Census Bureau

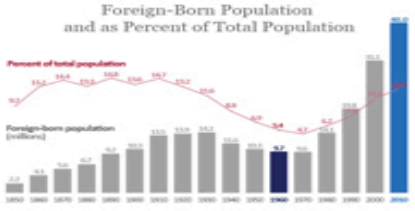
HOW DO WE KNOW?

America's Foreign Born in the Last 50 Years

During the last 50 years, the foreign-born population of the United States has undergone dramatic changes in size, origins, and geographic distribution. This population represented about 1 in 20 residents in 1960, mostly from countries in Europe who settled in the Northeast and Midwest. Today's foreign-born population makes up about one in eight U.S. residents, mostly immigrants from Latin America and Asia who have settled in the West and South. The Decennial Census and the annual American Community Survey allow us to trace the changes in the foreign-born population over time.

Long-term trends

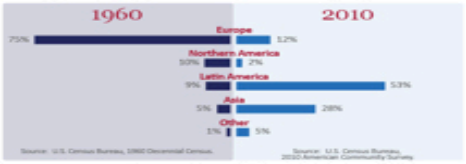
Foreign-Born Population and as Percent of Total Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1850–2000 Decennial Census; 2010 American Community Survey

Where they come from

Change in Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Decennial Census. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

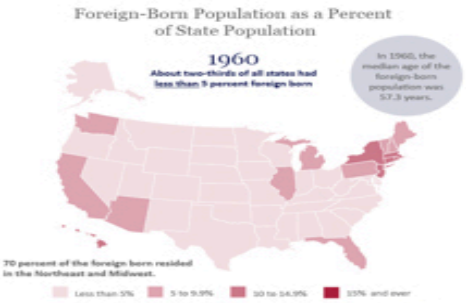
Top 10 Countries of Birth

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Decennial Census.

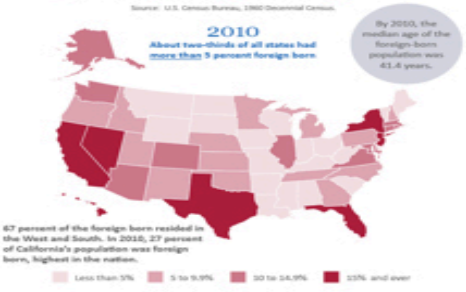
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

Where they live

Foreign-Born Population as a Percent of State Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1960 Decennial Census.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey.

Source: The Size, Place of Birth, and Geographic Distribution of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1960 to 2010
http://www.census.gov/population/foreign/files/WorkingPaper96.pdf

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration

For more information:
http://www.census.gov/

CENSUS.GOV

STATISTICS

Recent and Upcoming Data Releases

February 2013

Demographic

Employment History: 2004 and 2008 — These detailed tables and charts from the Survey of Income and Program Participation examine the relationship between years of work experience, job tenure (years at a particular job), work status (full or part time), presence of gaps in employment of six months or more, age, sex, educational attainment and earnings. (February 12.)

Working Paper: Other Vacant Housing Units: 2000, 2005, and 2010 — Examines the characteristics of vacant units categorized as being vacant for "other" reasons (which means they do not fit into the "for rent," "for sale," "rented or sold but not yet occupied," "occasional use" or "usual residence elsewhere" categories). The statistics were collected in the Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey in 2000, 2005 and 2010 and show how these characteristics have changed in each region and the nation as a whole during that time. Common reasons a housing unit is labeled "other" vacant is that no one lives in the unit and the owner is making repairs or renovations, does not want to rent or sell, is using the unit for storage or is elderly and living in a nursing home or with family members. Characteristics examined include number of rooms and bedrooms, units in structure and year structure built.
Being released with the working paper is a related table that will present the percent distribution of explanations why a vacant unit is classified as "other" vacant. Starting in January 2012, survey field representatives were instructed to choose between 10 predefined categories instead of only having the option to write in an explanation when collecting answers from respondents. The table will present the 10 predefined categories, with additional categories for "other write-in/don't know" and "no write-in." (Scheduled for release February 20.)

2012 Annual Housing Vacancy Survey Statistics — These statistics provide vacancy rates, homeownership rates and characteristics of units available for occupancy for the U.S., regions, states and the 75 largest metropolitan areas. Statistics for all geographies are available both quarterly and annually. Homeownership rates are also tabulated by age of householder for the U.S. and regions and by race and ethnicity of householder, by family status and by median family income for the U.S. In addition, estimates of the total housing inventory and percent distributions of vacant for-rent and for-sale-only units are available for the U.S. and regions. This information is used by public and private sector organizations to evaluate the need for new housing programs and initiatives. The rental vacancy rate is a component of the index of leading economic indicators and thereby used by the government and economic forecasters to gauge the economic climate. (Scheduled for release February 20.)

American Housing Survey for Selected Metropolitan Areas: 2011 Detailed Tables — Dozens of detailed tables on the characteristics of housing in 29 selected metro areas are now available in excel files and via the Census Bureau's American FactFinder data access tool. A wide range of topics is covered, including plumbing and source of water and sewage disposal; housing problems; householder's satisfaction with home and neighborhood; value, purchase price and source of down payment; recent home improvement activity and costs; safety features and potential health hazards; features in home providing accessibility to people with disabilities; and socio-economic characteristics of the householder. (Scheduled for release February 26.)

Employment-Based Health Insurance: 2010 — A new report based on the Survey of Income and Program Participation examines the characteristics of people with employer-provided health insurance coverage as well as the characteristics of employers that offer health insurance. The economic and demographic characteristics studied in this report include sex, race and ethnicity, age, family income and insurance status. (Scheduled for release February 27.)

Health Status, Health Insurance and Medical Services Utilization: 2001-2011 — A table package that highlights the relationship between the use of medical services (such as visits to doctors and nights spent in the hospital), health status, health insurance coverage and other demographic and economic characteristics. The statistics come from the Survey of Income and Program Participation. (Scheduled for release February 28.)

Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: State Reports — Results from one of the oldest continuing and most comprehensive recreation surveys. Includes information on the number of anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers, as well as how often they participate and how much they spend on their activities. The reports are being released on a state-by-state flow basis alphabetically by state name during the first half of 2013. The list of reports that have been released so far can be found at <https://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html>.

American Community Survey

American Community Survey Brief: The Geographic Concentration of High-Income Households: 2007-2011 — Examines where high-income households are and which areas have the highest concentration of such households. High-income households are defined as those in the top 5 percent of the national income distribution. The statistics come from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey five-year estimates and are shown for counties and metro areas. (February 11.)

American Community Survey Brief: Poverty Levels by Race and Ethnicity: 2007-2011 — This brief presents poverty rates by race and Hispanic origin for the United States, each state, and the District of Columbia. Poverty rates are also presented for selected detailed origin groups in the cities and towns with the largest populations of these groups. Poverty rates are summarized for American Indians and Alaska Natives, detailed Asian groups with populations of 750,000 or more, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander groups with populations of 25,000 or more and Hispanic-origin groups with populations of 1 million or more. (Scheduled for release February 20.)

Men in Nursing Occupations (report) and Selected Characteristics of Registered Nurses, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Practitioners, and Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses: 2011 (detailed tables) — The report presents estimates of men in each of the detailed nursing occupations using data from the 2011 American Community Survey. Furthermore, the report and accompanying detailed tables also provide estimates on a wide range of characteristics of men and women in nursing occupations. These include employment status, age, race, Hispanic origin, citizenship, educational attainment, work hours, time of departure to work, median earnings, industry and class of worker. (Scheduled for release February 25.)

American Community Survey Brief: Disability Characteristics of Income-Based Government Assistance Recipients in the U.S.: 2011 (Scheduled for release February 25.)

Economic

2011 Annual Capital Expenditures — These statistics, based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System, estimate business spending in 2011 for new and used structures and equipment at the sector level, as well as three-digit and selected four-digit industries. The estimates provide the private sector, especially the business community, with a relevant, timely and accurate measure of current business conditions. These data are an important input for federal agencies constructing composite national economic measures, such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis' estimates of private-fixed investment, a major component of gross domestic product; the Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates of capital stocks for productivity analysis; and the Federal Reserve Board's Flow of Funds accounts. (February 12.)

January 2013

American Community Survey

American Community Survey Brief: Homeownership Among the Foreign-Born Population: 2011
A new brief based on statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey examines homeownership and renting status among foreign-born households. In this report, a household is designated as foreign-born based on the nativity of the householder, regardless of the other occupants' nativity. Country and region of origin of the household are based on the country and region of origin of the householder as well. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/foreignborn_population/cb13-19.html>.

2007-2011 American Community Survey: Citizen Voting-Age Population
This tabulation from the 2007-2011 American Community Survey shows estimates of the citizen voting age

population by race for small areas of geography. This is the third year in a row that the American Community Survey has produced estimates of this population for even the smallest geographic areas. Prior to the American Community Survey, communities had to wait 10 years for an update on the citizen voting-age population. Previous versions of the files can be found on the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data website. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/voting/cb13-tps08.html>.

American Community Survey Brief: Labor Force Participation and Work Status of People 65 Years and Older
This brief examines the labor force participation rate of individuals who are aged 65 and older, and looks at long-term participation rate trends.

American Community Survey Brief: Students in the Workforce: 2011
This brief highlights statistics on school enrollment and examines the proportion of students who worked and the amount they worked over the previous year.

American Community Survey Brief: Recent Changes in Self-Employment
This brief examines changes in self-employment from 2010 to 2011 for the United States, the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Self-employment includes individuals working in incorporated and nonincorporated businesses. In addition, the brief provides data on changes in total employment from 2010 to 2011.

Demographic

Evaluation Estimates of the Population for the United States, Cities and Towns (Incorporated Places and Minor Civil Divisions): April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2010 — Internet downloadable files contain vintage 2010 estimates of total population. The estimates were developed using the Census Bureau's "Distributive Housing Unit Method." This method is based on housing units to distribute county household population estimates to the subcounty areas within each county. Estimates of the population living in group quarters are then added to create estimates of the total resident population. These estimates include changes from incorporation of special censuses and take into account challenges.
A downloadable file containing alternative estimates also was produced with the same method but did not incorporate special censuses and local challenges. All estimates are based on the 2000 Census and were created without incorporation or consideration of the 2010 Census results. The evaluation estimates are available on the population estimates Web page <https://www.census.gov/popest/research/eval-estimates/eval-est.html>.

Educational Attainment in the United States: 2012 —A series of national-level tables showing educational attainment levels by a wide range of demographic characteristics, including sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, household relationship, citizenship and nativity, labor force status, occupation and industry. Also included are detailed information on years of school completed, showing for each level of attainment exactly how many years of education adults have. A variety of historical time series tables going back to 1940 are also provided, as are graphs illustrating historical data. The data were collected by the Current Population Survey. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/education/cb13-13.html>.

Economic

Service Annual Survey: 2011— This annual business survey provides the most comprehensive national economic statistics available on service activity in the United States. Sectors include transportation and warehousing; finance and insurance; educational services; and arts, entertainment and recreation, to name a few. The statistics show operating revenue and expenses for both taxable and tax-exempt firms and organizations, sources of revenue and expenses by type for selected industries, and selected industry-specific items. In addition, export and inventory data were collected for selected industries. The latest Annual Services Report site can be accessed at <https://www.census.gov/services/index.html>. Internet address: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/service_industries/cb13-18.html>.

First Look at Key Demographic Characteristics of New Congressional Districts
For the first time, the Census Bureau's American Community Survey is providing access to detailed demographic data on congressional districts for the 113th Congress. These statistics include age, education, occupation, income and veteran status. They are accessible via Easy Stats, the Census Bureau's new online tool offering quick and easy access to American Community Survey data. These statistics are drawn from the most recent **one-year** American Community Survey sample, tabulated for redistricted congressional districts of the 113th Congress. Easy Stats provides statistics on a wide range of topics, such as income, occupation,

housing and education, down to the local level, including states, counties, cities and towns, and now, congressional districts. See **https://www.census.gov/easystats/**.

Puerto Rico Community Survey Estimates in Spanish and American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample Files

One-, three- and five-year estimates from the 2011 Puerto Rico Community Survey have been released in Spanish via the Census Bureau's American FactFinder data access tool. (These estimates have already been released in English.) The American Community Survey also is conducted in Puerto Rico, where it is known as the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Also released was the 2007-2011 American Community Survey five-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files via three different avenues of access: the American FactFinder, the Census Bureau's FTP site and DataFerret (a unique data analysis and extraction tool available through the Census Bureau's website). PUMS files contain records for a sample of housing units with information on the characteristics of each unit and each person in it. While preserving confidentiality (by removing identifiers), these microdata files permit users to create custom tabulations.

A final product, the 2009-2011 American Community Survey three-year Public Use Microdata Sample file, has been re-released via DataFerrett to account for the missing flag variable for "field of degree." This variable was included on the data files available through American FactFinder and the Census Bureau's FTP site but is not shown in the data dictionary and was omitted in DataFerrett.

Census Bureau Releases New Features in American FactFinder

The U.S. Census Bureau today released new features for American FactFinder, an online data tool that allows users to access a variety of Census Bureau statistics, including decennial, American Community Survey and economic census statistics. The new features include a simplified main page design, the option for a guided search and an enhanced community facts tool, providing options for both novice and advanced data users.

Guided Search walks users through each step of the inquiry, from selecting a topic, such as "people" or "business and industry," to selecting a geography. It also provides step-by-step options to search for information on specific race or ethnic groups, or industry codes. New enhancements to the Community Facts feature give users easy access to popular statistics about a state, city, town or ZIP code, such as total population, median income and educational attainment. Visit <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml> to use these new features. An online virtual tour is also available at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm>.