Fun Facts: Exploring the 1950 Census

A Look Back at the 1950 Census

During the 1950 Census, approximately 143,000 enumerators (people who collect data during a survey interview) counted households in the United States, territories of Alaska and Hawaii, American Samoa, the Canal Zone, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and some of the smaller island territories. They traveled by helicopter, boat, and even dog sled to collect responses, and for the first time more than half were women. To commemorate the release of data from the 1950 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau presents the following 1950 Census facts and figures from its vast collection of statistics.

What’s the Age?

- About 30—Median age of people counted in the 1950 Census.

1950 Employment

- 56,239,449—Total number of employed persons 14 years and over:
  - Male—40,519,462
  - Female—15,719,987

1950 Home Life

- $3,300/year—Average family income in 1950.
- Approximately 45,983,000—Number of homes in 1950.
- Approximately $7,400—Median home value.
- About 9 out of 10 (94%) homes had electricity.
- About 6 out of 10 (60%) of U.S. families owned an automobile.

1950 Census: By the Numbers

- U.S. President—Harry S. Truman
- U.S. resident population—151,325,798
- Official enumeration date—April 1, 1950
- Number of states—48
- Number of questions on the short form—20
- Number of questions on the long form—42

Fun Facts: Exploring the 1950 Census (Continued)

The 1950 censuses involved visits to 45 million homes to get information on more than 150 million people and their dwellings as well as more than 5 million farms.

Population
- **1950**: 151,325,798
- **2020**: 331,449,281

Center of Population
- **1950**: Louisville, Illinois, Clay County
- **2020**: Hartville, Missouri, Wright County

Who Said I Do?
Percentage of People Married (includes divorced and widowed)
- **1950**: About 7 out of 10 (70%) of people 14 years and over were married.
- **2019**: About 5 out of 10 (50%) of people 15 years and over were married.

High School Graduates
People 25 Years and Over
- **1950**
  - Male: 32.6%
  - Female: 36.0%
- **2020**
  - Male: 90.6%
  - Female: 91.3%

College Graduates
People 25 Years and Over
- **1950**
  - Male: 7.3%
  - Female: 5.2%
- **2020**
  - Male: 36.7%
  - Female: 38.3%

Women in the Workplace
- **1950**: 15,719,987 or 28% 14 years and over
- **2019**: 75,697,734 or 47.7% 16 years and over

United States Census Bureau
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