

Quick Census data guide

For past census data, visit <https://usa.ipums.org/usa>.

In the landing page, you can select between Create Your Own Custom Dataset, which can be used for statistical analysis outside of the website, or Online Tool for Analysis. For quick summary data, go with the second option.

You will be requested to login or create an account.

On the Data Analysis page, you can select between “Use data from multiple samples” and “Use data from a single sample”. To analyze data from multiple samples, use the first option and click in “United States, 1850-2021**”.

Let’s use an example to understand the logic of the system. Here, we want to see the proportion of urban and rural population in Mississippi from 1985 to 2021.

The bottom left blue box is the variable dictionary, where you can search the variable codes used. There is also a “Codebook” button on the top of the page.

For our example, we will first go on the blue box, click on “Household” and then “Geographic”. Click on “urban” next. The variable urban will appear on the white text box on the upper left.

SDA [SDA Help](#) [IPUMS Help](#) [SDA Datasets](#) [Logout](#) ☐ Accessibility mode Study: United States 1850-2021

Analysis Create Variables **Codebook**

Variable Selection

Selected: urban View

Copy to: Row Col Ctrn Filter

Mode: ☐ Append ☒ Replace

Household

Geographic

region - Census region and division

statelcp - State (ICPSR code)

statelcp - State (IPIS code)

countyicp - County (ICPSR code)

countyicp - County (IPIS code)

Urban/Rural Status

density - Population-weighted density of PUMA

metro - Metropolitan status

metarea - Metropolitan area

metarea - Metropolitan area

met2013 - Metropolitan area (2013 OMB delineation)

Tables Means Correl. matrix Comp. correl. Regression Logit/Probit List values

SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program

SDA Help: [General](#) / [Recoding Variables](#)

Row: (Required)

Column: year

Control:

Selection Filter(s):

Weight: perwt - Person weight

Output Options

Chart Options

Decimal Options

Create and Download CSV File

Run the Table Clear Fields

Next, click on “Row”. This will populate the “Row” text box on the right.

Now, click on the “Household/Technical” tab. Select “year”, then click on “Col”. The “Column” field on the right will be populated.

Variable Selection

Selected: year View

Copy to: Row Col Ctrn Filter

Mode: ☐ Append ☒ Replace

Household

Technical

rectype - Record type

year - Census year

sample - IPUMS sample identifier

serial - Household serial number

numprec - Number of person records following

subsamp - Subsample number

hhwt - Household weight

expwth - Experimental housing unit weight

numperhh - Number of persons in household

Tables Means Correl. matrix Comp. correl. Regression Logit/Probit List values

SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program

SDA Help: [General](#) / [Recoding Variables](#)

Row: urban (Required)

Column: year

Control:

Selection Filter(s):

Weight: perwt - Person weight

Output Options

Chart Options

Decimal Options

Create and Download CSV File

Run the Table Clear Fields

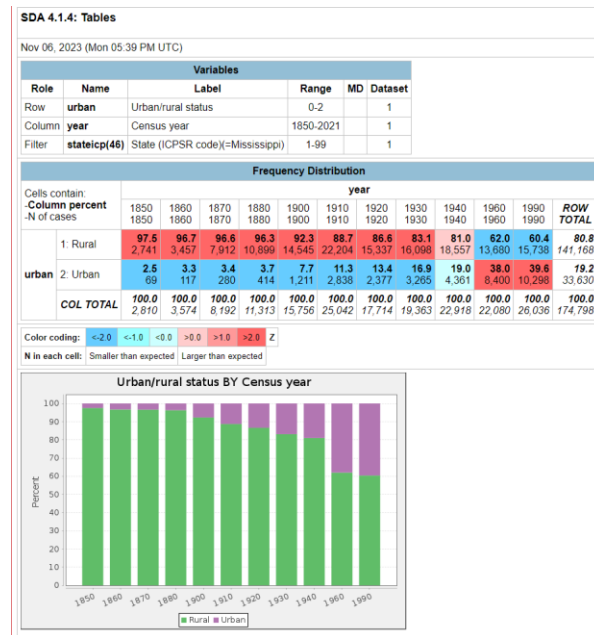
If you click in the “Run the table” button now, it will generate a report for the whole country population. We need to add a filter to select only the records referent to Mississippi.

Click on “Household/Geographic” and select variable “stateicp”, then click “Filter”. The variable will appear in the “Selection Filter(s)” text box, with an empty parenthesis beside it. We need to insert the state code in the parenthesis, which can be found in the codebook. In this case, the code for Mississippi

is 46.

The screenshot shows the SDA software interface. On the left, the 'Variable Selection' dialog has 'stateicp' selected in the 'Selected' field. Below it, the 'Copy to:' section has 'Row', 'Col', 'Ctrl', and 'Filter' buttons. The 'Mode' section has 'Append' selected. On the right, the 'SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program' window is open. The 'Row' field is set to 'urban', the 'Column' field is set to 'year', and the 'Selection Filter(s)' field is set to 'stateicp(46)'. The 'Weight' field is set to 'None'. The 'Output Options' and 'Chart Options' tabs are visible at the bottom.

Now, click on “Run the Table”. A new tab will pop up, showing a table and a chart. Note that the data coverage varies in different surveys. In this case, the data for urban/rural population is available for 11 timepoints.



The chart defaults to a stacked barplot, but on the “Chart Options” tab on the data analysis page it can be changed to other types, like a line plot.

[Tables](#)
[Means](#)
[Correl. matrix](#)
[Comp. correl.](#)
[Regression](#)
[Logit/Probit](#)
[List values](#)

SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program
 SDA Help: [General](#) / [Recoding Variables](#)

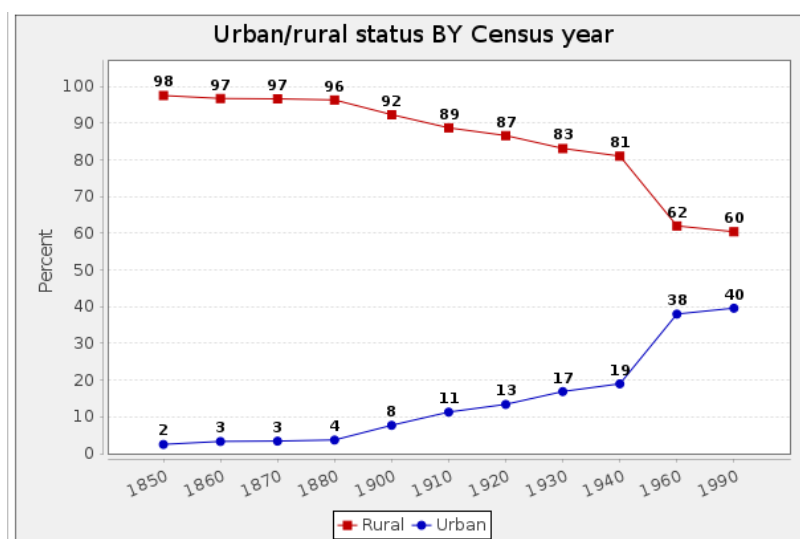
Row: (Required)
 Column:
 Control:
 Selection Filter(s):
 Weight:

▶ Output Options
 ▼ Chart Options

Type of chart:

General Chart Options
☒ Show percents
 Palette: ☒ Color ☐ Grayscale
 Size - width: height:

▶ Decimal Options
 ▶ Create and Download CSV File



The table can also be saved in a CSV file for further analysis outside of the platform. To do so, click on the “Create and Download CSV File” tab on the analysis page.

▼ Create and Download CSV File

CSV file options

CSV table format: ☒ Combine statistics into one table
☐ Separate statistics into multiple tables

Name of CSV download file: (Must end with .csv)

Choose a file name, then click on “Create CSV file”. A text box will pop up on the right corner of the the screen when the file is ready. Then click on “Download CSV file”. The resulting file can be opened in Microsoft Excel, for example.

For 2000s onwards data, visit <https://data.census.gov/>.

There are several ways to search this website, but let’s continue with our question. In the search box, enter “urban”. This will take you to a dashboard showing filters on the left, then the Census tables in the center portion. The top hits will be H2 and P2, which contain data about the proportion of urban and rural households and people, respectively.

The screenshot shows the Census data dashboard. On the left, there are filters for Geography (Nation, State, County, County Subdivision, Place, ZIP Code Tabulation Area, Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area, Census Tract, Block, Block Group, All Geographies) and Topics (American Community Survey). The center section displays a list of tables under the heading "Tables". The top results are:

- Decennial Census of Island Areas **H2** | URBAN AND RURAL (View All 14 Products)
- Decennial Census of Island Areas **P2** | URBAN AND RURAL (View All 14 Products)
- Decennial Census **HCT1** | URBAN AND RURAL (View All 2 Products)
- Decennial Census **PCT2** | URBAN AND RURAL (View All 2 Products)
- Decennial Census **H002** | URBAN AND RURAL [6] (View All 7 Products)
- Decennial Census

On the right, there is a map of the United States and a summary of the Nation's statistics:

- Nation**
- United States**
- Total Population: 331,449,281
- Median Household Income: \$74,755
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 35.7%
- Employment Rate: 60.3%
- Total Housing Units: 140,498,738
- Without Health Care Coverage: 8.0%
- Total Employer Establishments: 8,148,608
- Total Households: 129,870,928
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race): 62,080,044
- [View Profile](#)

We need to add some filters to make the research easier.

In the Geography table on the left, click on “State” then tick the “Mississippi” box. Then in the “Surveys” tab, click on “Decennial Census” and tick the “Demographic and Housing Characteristics” box. Close the Filters tab.

In the center column, click on Table P2. The right column will now show the results from the latest census. If you remove the “Demographic and Housing Characteristics” filter and choose instead DEC Summary File 1, it will show the results from the 2010 Census. Additionally, if you click on the “2000” filter on the “Years” tab, it will show tables P002 and H002, which have the corresponding data for the 2000 census.

The screenshot shows the Census data dashboard with filters applied. The left sidebar shows 2 Filters: Mississippi and DEC Demographic and Housing... The center section displays 2 Results under the heading "2 Results". The top result is:

- Decennial Census **H2** | URBAN AND RURAL (View: 10 | 25 | 50)
- 2020: DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics
- Decennial Census **P2** | URBAN AND RURAL (View: 10 | 25 | 50)
- 2020: DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics

On the right, there is a data table for the selected table:

Label	Mississippi
Total:	2,961,279
Urban	1,370,790
Rural	1,590,489
Not defined for this file	0

Results can be exported as a CSV file and combined with the results extracted from IPUMS.

This website does not have chart capabilities, but some variables can be mapped. If you click on the “Maps” tab on the top center menu, a map will show. Click on the “layer” button on the top right menu, several options will appear. If you click on the State-Urban Area, a layer highlighting urban areas in each state will appear.