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.

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.

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.

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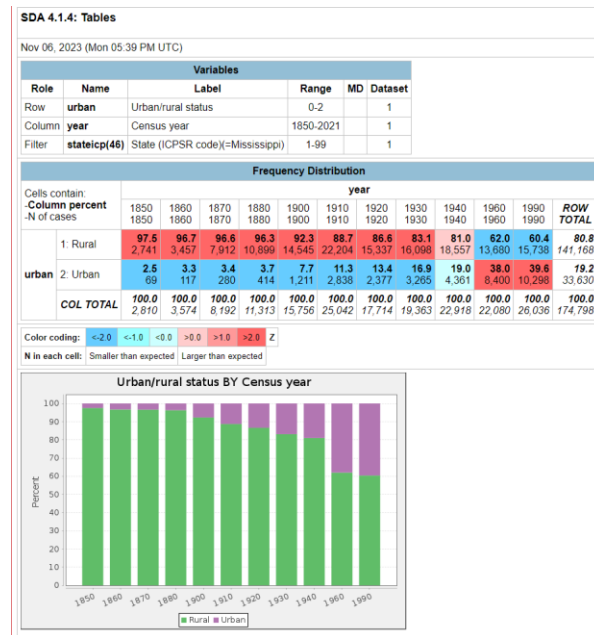
The chart defaults to a stacked barplot, but on the "Chart Options" tab on the data analysis page it can be changed to other types, like a line plot.

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

SDA Frequencies/Crosstabulation Program
SDA Help: General / Recoding Variables

Row: `urban` (Required)

Column: `year`

Control: ⃝

Selection Filter(s): ⃝ `stateicp(46)`

Weight: ⃝ `None`

▸ Output Options

▾ Chart Options

Type of chart: ⃝ `Line Chart`

General Chart Options

☑ Show percents ⃝

Palette ⃝
⦿ Color ◯ Grayscale

Size - width: `600` height: `400` ⃝

▸ Decimal Options

▸ Create and Download CSV File

`Run the Table` `Clear Fields`

Urban/rural status BY Census year
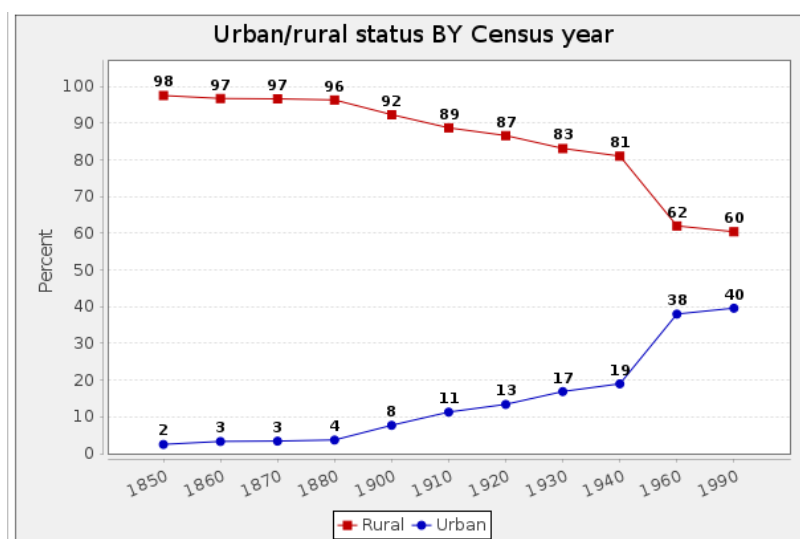
The table can also be saved in a CSV file for further analysis outside of the platform. To do so, click on the "Create and Download CSV File" tab on the analysis page.

▾ Create and Download CSV File

`Create CSV file` ⃝   `↓ Download CSV file`

CSV file options

CSV table format ⃝
◯ Separate statistics into multiple tables
⦿ Combine statistics into one table

Name of CSV download file: ⃝ `rural_and_urban_MS.csv` (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.

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.

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 option will appear. If you click on the State-Urban Area, a layer highlighting urban areas in each state will appear.