

Units in Structure, Rooms, and Bedrooms

1 Which best describes this building?
Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant.

A mobile home

A one-family house detached from any other house

A one-family house attached to one or more houses

A building with 2 apartments

A building with 3 or 4 apartments

A building with 5 to 9 apartments

A building with 10 to 19 apartments

A building with 20 to 49 apartments

A building with 50 or more apartments

Boat, RV, van, etc.

7 a. How many separate rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home?
Rooms must be separated by built-in archways or walls that extend out at least 6 inches and go from floor to ceiling.

- INCLUDE bedrooms, kitchens, etc.
- EXCLUDE bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or unfinished basements.

Number of rooms

b. How many of these rooms are bedrooms?
Count as bedrooms those rooms you would list if this house, apartment, or mobile home were for sale or rent. If this is an efficiency/studio apartment, print "0".

Number of bedrooms

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask questions about the units in a structure, rooms, and bedrooms to create statistics that can be used to analyze the availability of housing, determine changes in the size and structure of homes, evaluate overcrowding, and plan emergency services.

History:

The first questions about type of structure and number of rooms and bedrooms were asked in the Census of 1940. Questions about type of structure and number of rooms and bedrooms were included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

Estimates about the changing size and structure of homes, when combined with other estimates such as tenure (whether a home is owned or rented), income, and year the structure was built, provide useful housing information to many federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Energy. These agencies use this information to assess the local multifamily housing market, participation in assistance programs, and the extent of overcrowding in homes.

State and County Uses:

As with rent, state and local governments use statistics about type of structure, rooms, and number of rooms and bedrooms as part of their comprehensive housing affordability strategies for determining the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction. This information is also used to identify home structures in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.

Private Sector Uses:

Private groups use this information to analyze housing trends for local areas. Community organizations use structure estimates, in conjunction with other ACS estimates, to identify future needs and create plans to request federal funding or spur economic growth.

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Year Built and Year Moved In

2 About when was this building first built?

2000 or later – *Specify year* →

1990 to 1999

1980 to 1989

1970 to 1979

1960 to 1969

1950 to 1959

1940 to 1949

1939 or earlier

3 When did PERSON 1 (listed on page 2) move into this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Month Year

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask about when a building was built and the year the householder moved into the unit to understand housing availability and measure neighborhood stability. These statistics are especially valuable for recent movers.

History:

Questions regarding the age of a home have been asked since the Census of 1940. Questions regarding the year an individual moved into a residence have been asked since the Census of 1980. These questions were included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

These statistics are used to analyze the availability of affordable housing in a community and allocate assistance accordingly. Government agencies use this information to calculate turnover among specified population groups such as elderly and minority households. These estimates are also used to design the U.S. Department of Energy's legislatively mandated Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

State and County Uses:

State and local areas use these statistics to project the need for services such as police and fire protection. Local agencies use this information to evaluate changes in service requirements in a given area because of migration to or from the area. Local emergency management agencies use these estimates to assess the amount of displacement caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters. These estimates also are used to allocate funds to local governments under the Community Development Block Grant Program and Public Housing Modernization formulas.

Private Sector Uses:

The Federal Reserve Board uses this information to implement the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act that requires lending institutions to disclose details of lending practices as a safeguard against unfair housing practices in certain communities.

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Acreage, Agricultural Sales, and Business on Property

4 How many acres is this house or mobile home on?

Less than 1 acre → *SKIP to question 6*

1 to 9.9 acres

10 or more acres

6 Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property?

Yes

No

5 IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?

None

\$1 to \$999

\$1,000 to \$2,499

\$2,500 to \$4,999

\$5,000 to \$9,999

\$10,000 or more

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask questions about acreage, agricultural sales, and businesses on a property to measure neighborhood quality, housing affordability, and wealth.

History:

The first questions about acreage, agricultural sales, and business on property were asked in the Census of 1970. These questions were included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these statistics to assess the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction and to check appraised values for mortgages. The U.S. Department of Transportation incorporates acreage, agricultural sales, and business on the property statistics into the development of transportation plans, policies, and programs.

State and County Uses:

Value information, which is derived from acreage, agricultural sales, and business on property statistics, is incorporated into annual reports to Congress on housing production, occupancy, tenure and analyses of housing needs. Local officials also use these estimates to assess the impact on the value of homes affected by road, bridge, and subway construction.

Private Sector Uses:

Local service groups use these estimates to locate service areas. Financial institutions factor acreage and business on property information into their decision-making on mortgage lending.

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Kitchen and Plumbing Facilities

8 Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have –	Yes	No
a. hot and cold running water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. a flush toilet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. a bathtub or shower?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. a sink with a faucet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. a stove or range?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. a refrigerator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. telephone service from which you can both make and receive calls? <i>Include cell phones.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask questions about kitchen and plumbing facilities because federal and local governments need this information to allocate funding for housing subsidies and other programs that help American families afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

History:

Questions regarding kitchen and plumbing facilities have been asked since the Census of 1940. This question was included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

This information contains integral components used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in analyzing the availability of affordable housing in a community, and assisting accordingly. Federal agencies use these statistics to identify areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans, and as an indicator of housing quality. Public health officials use this information to locate areas in danger of ground water contamination and waterborne diseases.

State and County Uses:

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify poor quality housing by measuring the lack of plumbing facilities. This information is also critical to assess the quality of the housing stock.

Private Sector Uses:

Advocacy groups use this information to find ways to make rural drinking water safe, affordable, and available for all. These estimates also are used to educate the public regarding the plumbing, heating and cooling industries, and to lobby for better laws and regulations that will protect individuals who are in need.

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Computer and Internet Use

9 At this house, apartment, or mobile home – do you or any member of this household own or use any of the following computers?

- EXCLUDE GPS devices, digital music players, and devices with only limited computing capabilities, for example: household appliances.

	Yes	No
a. Desktop, laptop, netbook, or notebook computer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Handheld computer, smart mobile phone, or other handheld wireless computer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Some other type of computer Specify <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

10 At this house, apartment, or mobile home – do you or any member of this household access the Internet?

- Yes, with a subscription to an Internet service
- Yes, without a subscription to an Internet service → SKIP to question 12
- No Internet access at this house, apartment, or mobile home → SKIP to question 12

11 At this house, apartment, or mobile home – do you or any member of this household subscribe to the Internet using –

	Yes	No
a. Dial-up service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DSL service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Cable modem service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Fiber-optic service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Mobile broadband plan for a computer or a cell phone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Satellite Internet service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Some other service? Specify service <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why We Ask:

We ask this question to measure access to computers and the Internet throughout the country.

History:

This question was mandated by the 2008 Broadband Data Improvement Act; it was first included on the ACS in 2013.

Federal Uses:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will use these statistics to measure the nationwide development of broadband access, as well as the successful deployment of the next generation of broadband technology. These statistics will also allow the FCC to develop measures to increase access to broadband technology and decrease barriers. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will use these statistics to provide grants that help expand public access to broadband service and fund broadband education and support, particularly to groups that have traditionally underutilized broadband technology.

State and County Uses:

State and local governments may use these statistics to evaluate access to broadband in their communities, and institute policies and programs that increase access to areas with less connectivity.

Private Sector Uses:

Businesses and non-profits can use these statistics to analyze computer and Internet usage in their communities. Knowing how many people have access to computers and the Internet helps these groups communicate more effectively with their customers and plan outreach or ecommerce.

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Vehicles

12 How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?

None

1

2

3

4

5

6 or more

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask this question about vehicles, in conjunction with the place of work and journey to work questions, to provide information about commuting and road congestion.

History:

Questions regarding vehicles have been asked since the Census of 1960. Questions about vehicles were included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

The U.S. Department of Transportation uses statistics about vehicles available to develop policies and to plan a number of transportation programs. The U.S. Department of Energy uses this information to estimate and forecast energy consumption of motor vehicles and for planning and establishing program activities as part of the Alternative Fueled Vehicles Program.

State and County Uses:

State and local agencies use this information to determine the need for special transportation services for the elderly and disabled. Social service agencies use these statistics to plan for emergency transportation services in areas with high concentrations of households without vehicles, such as isolated rural communities. These statistics are also used to help form the database used by state departments of transportation and the more than 350 metropolitan planning organizations responsible for comprehensive transportation planning activities. Programs include transportation safety, long-range transportation investments, emergency response, and evacuation planning.

Private Sector Uses:

Transportation planning groups use information about vehicles available to estimate total vehicle travel and forecast future travel and its effect on transportation systems.

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Home Heating Fuel

13 Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?

- Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
- Gas: bottled, tank, or LP
- Electricity
- Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
- Coal or coke
- Wood
- Solar energy
- Other fuel
- No fuel used

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask questions about home heating fuel to understand local housing stock, community air quality, and energy needs. These statistics are used to analyze the fuels available to community residents, to forecast the need for additional power facilities and to address the adequacy of energy sources.

History:

The first question about home heating fuel was asked in the Census of 1940. A heating fuel question was included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

The U.S. Department of Energy uses these estimates to provide information on energy supply and consumption, and to design the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS), a legislatively mandated survey required to provide information on residential and commercial energy use. The Environmental Protection Agency uses this information to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet present and future needs of the general public. These statistics are also needed to determine the types of fuel used by low-income persons and families receiving assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

State and County Uses:

States and counties seek to create policies and programs to encourage appropriate development for the community. These governments use these statistics to identify areas that may be at risk for unhealthy air quality as a consequence of reliance on less efficient and clean home heating fuels. State and local environmental agencies interested in promoting alternative fuels, such as solar energy, also use this information to identify areas that may be interested in alternative fuel options.

Private Sector Uses:

Utility companies and fuel oil distributors use these data to forecast the need for additional power facilities such as generating plants, long distance pipelines for oil or natural gas, and long distance transmission lines for electricity.

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Why We Ask:

We ask about selected monthly owner costs, such as mortgage payments and utilities, to measure the cost of homeownership. When combined with income, selected monthly owner costs offer an excellent measure of affordability and excessive shelter costs.

History:

Questions regarding monthly owner costs have been asked since 1940. Questions about monthly owner costs were included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these statistics in many of its housing assistance programs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses this information to assess the need for housing assistance for elderly and low-income homeowners. This information is also used to measure progress toward the congressional declaration of goals for national housing policy: a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.

State and County Uses:

States and counties seek to create policies and programs to encourage appropriate development for the community. These governments also use these statistics to assist low-income families with home energy assistance. This information is also used to ensure residents have affordable housing options, and reduce the tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties.

Private Sector Uses:

Advocacy groups use these estimates to assist the number of households paying between 30%- 50% of their incomes towards housing costs. These households have unaffordable housing cost burdens and are often the families that fall behind on rent when they face an unexpected car repair bill or health emergency.

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Food Stamps/ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

15 IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did you or any member of this household receive benefits from the Food Stamp Program or SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)? Do NOT include WIC, the School Lunch Program, or assistance from food banks.

Yes

No

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask this question about food stamps/SNAP to understand and forecast participation in assistance programs. In 2008, the food stamp program was renamed SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

History:

A question about food stamps/SNAP was included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to monitor and report state performance on a variety of outcomes including work status, family formation, and SNAP participation. The Health Resource and Service Administration (Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant) uses this information to understand the population to be served and to allocate funds to states.

State and County Uses:

State and local governments use these statistics to assess state performance in the current year, food stamp/SNAP participation rates for low-income working families with children, and the changes in the participation rate of such families in the state over time.

Private Sector Uses:

Faith-based and other nonprofit organizations use information about food assistance needs to determine where food banks, food kitchens, and other programs could be beneficial.

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