

A Reprint from *Tierra Grande*, the Real Estate Center Journal



The 2000 Census is the nation's first truly electronic census in terms of data dissemination. Most of the resulting data will be published online at the Census Bureau's website (www.census.gov) and on state data center websites; the Texas State Data Center website is txsdc.tamu.edu. Only three printed volumes will be published for each state. The bureau's and Texas State Data Center's websites will enable users to print or download data directly from the web or request data in CD-ROM and DVD format. Extensive mapping capabilities and preformatted tables will be included.

This census includes more detailed data on persons with disabilities, a new item on grandparents as caregivers for children and two significant changes to race information. The 1990 "Asian and Pacific Islander" category was split into "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander." For the first time, respondents could indicate they were members of more than one racial group. These changes will produce data on

numerous multiracial groups. Because respondents were not asked to indicate what racial category they previously checked, it will be impossible to directly compare this data with data from earlier censuses.

A possibly confusing aspect of the 2000 Census is that two sets of data will be produced: one that will consist of a count of persons without any adjustment for undercount, which is the estimated number of persons not counted in the census, and a second set of data that has been adjusted for undercount based on the Census Bureau's estimate as determined from an extensive post-census survey effort called the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. Because the undercounted group has historically been disproportionately minority, adjusted counts are expected to include more minority population members.

The two major political parties have been at odds about which of these two counts should be used for redistricting and allocation of federal funds. Both sets of data will be produced, and the courts

will likely have to decide which to use for redistricting and other purposes.

Those using census data should know which set of numbers is being used in any given analysis. Adjusted figures will present challenges for general data users and real estate analysts in particular because there will be no directly comparable data for previous census periods. When comparing housing data, unadjusted figures should be used. Adjusted figures do not include housing data, so to compare "apples to apples" previous census figures should be compared to unadjusted 2000 Census figures.

The 2000 Census will provide unprecedented opportunity for data access and use, but those who use the data must understand these changes to avoid errors in applying the data. ♣

Dr. Murdock is a research fellow with the Real Estate Center and chief demographer of the Texas State Data Center, Department of Rural Sociology, at Texas A&M University. His e-mail address is s-murdock@tamu.edu.



LOWRY MAYS COLLEGE & GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Texas A&M University
2115 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2115

<http://recenter.tamu.edu>
979-845-2031
800-244-2144 orders only

Director, Dr. R. Malcolm Richards; **Associate Director**, Gary Maler; **Chief Economist**, Dr. Mark G. Dotzour; **Senior Editor**, David S. Jones; **Associate Editor**, Nancy McQuiston; **Associate Editor**, Wendell E. Fuqua; **Assistant Editor**, Kammy Baumann; **Editorial Assistant**, Ellissa Bravenec; **Art Director**, Robert P. Beals II; **Circulation Manager**, Mark W. Baumann; **Typography**, Real Estate Center; **Lithography**, Wetmore & Company, Houston.

Advisory Committee

Joseph A. Adame, Corpus Christi, chairman; Jerry L. Schaffner, Lubbock, vice chairman; Celia Goode-Haddock, College Station; Carlos Madrid, Jr., San Antonio; Catherine Miller, Fort Worth; Angela S. Myres, Kingwood; Nick Nicholas, Dallas; Douglas A. Schwartz, El Paso; Gloria Van Zandt, Arlington; and Jay C. Brummett, Austin, ex-officio representing the Texas Real Estate Commission.

Tierra Grande (ISSN 1070-0234), formerly *Real Estate Center Journal*, is published quarterly by the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2115. Subscriptions are free to Texas real estate licensees. Other subscribers, \$20 per year.

Views expressed are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement by the Real Estate Center, the Lowry Mays College & Graduate School of Business or Texas A&M University.

© 2001, Real Estate Center. All rights reserved.