

APPENDIX A

Definitions of Subject Characteristics

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POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

AGE

The data on age were derived from answers to questionnaire item 5, which requested an acceptable date of birth response, and was asked of all persons. The age classification is derived from respondent data on date of birth.

Data on age are used to determine the applicability of other questions for a person and to classify other characteristics in census tabulations. Age data are needed to interpret most social and economic characteristics used to plan and examine many programs and policies. Therefore, age is tabulated by single years of age and by many different groupings, such as 5-year age groups.

Some tabulations are shown by the age of the householder. These data were derived from the age responses for each householder. (For more information on householder, see the discussion under "Household Type and Relationship".)

Median Age—This measure divides the age distribution into two equal parts: one half of the cases falling below the median value and one-half above the value. Generally, median age is computed on the basis of more detailed age intervals than are shown in some census publications; thus, a median based on a less detailed distribution may differ slightly from a corresponding median for the same population based on a more detailed distribution. (For more information on medians, see the discussion under "Derived Measures".)

Limitation of the Data—Counts in 1970 and 1980 censuses for persons 100 years old and over were substantially overstated. Improvements

were made in the questionnaire design and the allocation procedures to attempt to minimize this problem in the 1990 census, and this was continued in the 1995 and 1997 surveys.

Review of detailed 1990 information indicated that respondents tended to provide their age as of the date of completion of the questionnaire, not their age as of March 1, 1997, the reference week. In addition, there may have been a tendency for respondents to round their age up if they were close to having a birthday. It is likely that approximately 10 percent of persons in most age groups were actually 1 year younger. For most single years of age, the misstatements are largely offsetting. The problem was most pronounced at age 0 because persons lost to age 1 may not have been fully offset by the inclusion of babies born after April 1, 1990 because there may have been more rounding up to age 1 to avoid reporting age as 0 years. (In 1990, age in completed months was not collected for infants under age 1.)

The reporting of age one year older than age on April 1, 1990 was likely to have been greater in areas where the survey data were collected later in 1990. The magnitude of this problem was much less in the three previous censuses where age was typically derived from respondent data on year of birth and quarter of birth. For these reasons, the 1995 survey relied on an acceptable date of birth response to determine age and this procedure was followed in the 1997 survey.

Comparability—Age data have been collected in every census. The 1997 and 1995 survey data followed the pattern of the 1990 census and are not available by quarter year of age. However, whereas in 1990 coded information could be obtained for both age and year of birth, the 1997 and 1995 surveys coded only date of birth. In each census since 1950, the age of a person was assigned when it was not reported. Since 1960, assignment of unknown age has been performed by a general procedure described as “imputation”.

The specific procedures for imputing age have been different in each census. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix B, Accuracy of the Data.)

CITIZENSHIP

The data on citizenship were derived from answers to questionnaire item 9, which was asked of all persons.

Citizen—Persons who indicated that they were native born and foreign-born persons who indicated that they have become naturalized. (For more information on native and foreign born, see the discussion under “Place of Birth”.)

There are four categories of citizenship: (1) born in the U.S. Virgin Islands, (2) born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a US territory (3) born abroad of American parent or parents, and (4) citizen by naturalization.

Naturalized Citizen—Foreign-born persons who had completed the naturalization process at the time of the census/survey and upon whom the rights of citizenship had been conferred.

Not a Citizen—Foreign-born persons who were not citizens, including persons who had begun but not completed the naturalization process at the time of the census, as well as temporary residents whose status did not permit the acquisition of U.S. citizenship.

Limitation of the Data—Evaluation studies completed after previous censuses indicated that some persons may have reported themselves as citizens although they had not yet attained the status.

Comparability—Similar questions on citizenship were asked in the censuses of 1950, 1970, and 1980. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, as in the

1990 census, both native and foreign-born persons were asked to respond to the citizenship question. In 1995 and 1997, an additional response was sought to provide data on temporary residents who were not citizens.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Data on educational attainment were derived from answers to questionnaire item 13 which was a two-part question asked of all persons. In 13a, persons are classified according to the highest level of school completed or the highest degree received. The question included instructions to report the level of the previous grade attended or the highest degree received for persons currently enrolled in school. The question included response categories which allowed persons to report completing the 12th grade without receiving a high school diploma, and which instructed respondents to report as “high school graduate(s)” persons who received either a high school diploma or the equivalent, for example, passed the Test of General Educational Development (G.E.D.), and did not attend college. The lowest response category was “no school completed”.

Interviewers were instructed that schooling completed in foreign or ungraded school systems should be reported as the equivalent level of schooling in the regular American system: that vocational certificates or diplomas from vocational, trade, or business schools or colleges were not to be reported unless they were college level degrees; and that honorary degrees were not to be reported. The instructions gave “medicine, dentistry, chiropractic, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, veterinary medicine, law, and theology” as examples of professional school degrees, and specifically excluded “barber school, cosmetology, or other training for a specific trade” from the professional school category. The order in which they were listed suggested that doctorate degrees, were “higher” than master's degrees.

Persons who did not report educational attainment were assigned the attainment of a person of the same age, race and Hispanic origin, and sex who resided in the same or a nearby area. Persons who filled more than one circle were edited to the highest level or degree reported.

High School Graduate or Higher—Includes persons whose highest degree was a high school diploma or its equivalent, persons who attended college or a professional school, and persons who received a college, university, or professional degree. Persons who reported completing the 12th grade but not receiving a diploma are not included.

Not Enrolled, Not High School Graduate—includes persons of compulsory school attendance age or above who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates; these persons may be taken to be “high school dropouts”. There is no restriction on when they “dropped out” of school, and they may have never attended high school.

In prior censuses, “Median school years completed” was used as a summary measure of educational attainment. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, as in the 1990 census, the median can only be calculated for groups of which less than half the members have attended college. “Percent high school graduate or higher” and “Percent bachelor's degree or higher” are summary measures which can be calculated from the present data and offer quite readily interpretable measures of differences between population subgroups. To make comparisons over time, “Percent high school graduate or higher” can be calculated and “Percent bachelor's degree or higher” can be approximated with data from previous censuses.

Comparability—Educational attainment questions in terms of years of school completed were included on the census from 1950 to 1980. In 1950, a single question was asked on highest

grade of school completed. In the censuses of 1960 through 1980, a two-part question asking highest grade of school attended and whether that grade was finished was used to construct highest grade or year of school completed. For persons who have not attended college, the 1997 and 1995 surveys utilized response categories from the 1990 educational attainment question that produced data comparable to data on highest grade completed from earlier censuses.

The response categories for persons who have attended college were modified from earlier censuses because there was some ambiguity in interpreting responses in terms of the number of years of college completed. For instance, it was not clear whether “completed the fourth year of college”, “completed the senior year of college”, and “college graduate” were synonymous. Research conducted shortly before the census suggests that these terms were more distinct in 1990 than in earlier decades, and this change may have threatened the ability to estimate the number of “college graduates” from the number of persons reported as having completed the fourth or a higher year of college. It was even more difficult to make inferences about post-baccalaureate degrees and “Associate” degrees from highest year of college completed. Therefore, comparisons of post-secondary educational attainment in the 1997 and 1995 surveys and earlier censuses should be made with great caution.

In the 1960 and subsequent censuses, persons for whom educational attainment was not reported were assigned the same attainment level as a similar person whose residence was in the same or a nearby area. In the 1950 censuses, persons for whom educational attainment was not reported were not allocated.

For the first time, data on where persons with technical training had received that training was sought in the 1995 survey by asking questionnaire item 13b to all persons. Respondents were asked

whether training was received “In a vocational education high school certification program”, “In a technical preparation program”, “On the job”, or “In a technical school/college”. This question was also asked in the 1997 survey.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The data on employment status were derived from answers to questionnaire items 23, 24, 26, which were asked of all persons born after March 1, 1982. The series of questions on employment status was asked of all persons 15 years old and over and was designed to identify, in this sequence: (1) persons who worked at any time during the reference week; (2) persons who did not work during the reference week but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent (excluding layoff); (3) persons on layoff; and (4) persons who did not work during the reference week, but who were looking for work during the last four weeks and were available for work during the reference week. (For more information, see the discussion under “Reference Week”.)

The employment status data shown in this and other 1997 survey tabulations relate to persons 16 years old and over. Some tabulations showing employment status, however, include persons 15 years old. By definition, these persons are classified as “Not in Labor Force”. In the 1940, 1950, and 1960 censuses, employment status data were presented for persons 14 years old and over. The change in the universe was made in 1970 to agree with the official measurement of the labor force as revised in January 1967 by the U.S. Department of Labor. The 1970 census was the last to show employment data for persons 14 and 15 years old.

Employed—All civilians 16 years old and over who were either (1) “at work” those who did any work at all during the reference week as paid employees, worked in their own business or profes-

sion, worked on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a family farm or in a family business: or (2) were “with a job but not at work”—those who did not work during the reference week but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons. Excluded from the employed are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations: also excluded are persons on active duty in the United States Armed Forces.

Unemployed—All civilians 16 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week, and (2) were looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to accept a job. Also included as unemployed are civilians who did not work at all during the reference week and were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off. Examples of job seeking activities are:

- Registering at a public or private employment office
- Meeting with prospective employers
- Investigating possibilities for starting a professional practice or opening a business
- Placing or answering advertisements
- Writing letters of application
- Being on a union or professional register

Civilian Labor Force—Consists of persons classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above.

Experienced Unemployed—These are unemployed persons who have worked at any time in the past.

Experienced Civilian Labor Force—Consists of the employed and the experienced unemployed.

Labor Force—All persons classified in the civilian labor force plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces (persons on active duty with the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard).

Not in Labor Force—All persons 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, housewives, retired workers, seasonal workers enumerated in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized persons, and persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

Worker—This term appears in connection with several subjects: class of worker, weeks worked in 1994, and number of workers in family in 1994. Its meaning varies and, therefore, should be determined in each case by referring to the definition of the subject in which it appears.

Actual Hours Worked Last Week—All persons who reported working during the reference week were asked to report in questionnaire item 23b the number of hours that they worked. The statistics on hours worked pertain to the number of hours actually worked at all jobs, and do not necessarily reflect the number of hours typically or usually worked or the scheduled number of hours. The concept of “actual hours” differs from that of “usual hours” described below. The number of persons who worked only a small number of hours is probably understated since such persons sometimes consider themselves as not working. Respondents were asked to include overtime or extra hours worked, but to exclude lunch hours, sick leave, and vacation leave.

Limitation of the Data—The census may understate the number of employed persons because persons who have irregular, casual, or unstructured jobs sometimes report themselves as not

working. The number of employed persons “at work” is probably overstated in the census (and conversely, the number of employed “with a job, but not at work” is understated) since some persons on vacation or sick leave erroneously reported themselves as working. This problem has no effect on the total number of employed persons. The reference week for the employment data is not the same for all persons. Since persons can change their employment status from one week to another, the lack of a uniform reference week may mean that the employment data do not reflect the reality of the employment situation of any given week. (For more information, see the discussion under “Reference Week”.)

Comparability—The questionnaire items and employment status concepts for the 1997 survey are essentially the same as those used in the 1990, 1980 and 1970 censuses. However, these concepts differ in many respects from those associated with the 1950 and 1960 censuses.

Since employment data from the survey as well as the census are obtained from respondents in households, they differ from statistics based on reports from individual business establishments, farm enterprises, and certain government programs. Persons employed at more than one job are counted only once in the survey or the census and are classified according to the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference week. In statistics based on reports from business and farm establishments, persons who work for more than one establishment may be counted more than once. Moreover, some tabulations may exclude private house hold workers, unpaid family workers, and self-employed persons, but may include workers less than 16 years of age.

An additional difference in the data arises from the fact that persons who had a job but were not at work are included with the employed in the census statistics, whereas many of these persons are

likely to be excluded from employment figures based on establishment payroll reports. Furthermore, the employment status data in census tabulations include persons on the basis of place of residence regardless of where they work, whereas establishment data report persons at their place of work regardless of where they live. This latter consideration is particularly significant when comparing data for workers who commute between areas.

Like the census, the 1997 and 1995 survey data on actual hours worked during the reference week may differ from data from other sources. Both the 1997 and 1995 surveys and the census measure hours actually worked, whereas some other surveys measure hours paid for by employers. Comparability of census actual hours worked data may also be affected by the nature of the reference week (see “Reference Week”).

For several reasons, the unemployment figures of the 1997 and 1995 surveys and the Census Bureau may not be comparable with published figures on unemployment compensation claims. For example, figures on unemployment compensation claims may exclude persons who have exhausted their benefit rights, new workers who have not earned rights to unemployment insurance, and persons losing jobs not covered by unemployment insurance systems (including some workers in agriculture, domestic services, and religious organizations, and self-employed and unpaid family workers). In addition, the qualifications for drawing unemployment compensation may differ from the definition of unemployment used by the 1997 and 1995 surveys and the Census Bureau. Persons working only a few hours during the week and persons with a job but not at work are sometimes eligible for unemployment compensation but are classified as “Employed” in the census as well as the 1997 and 1995 surveys. Differences in the geographical distribution of unemployment data arise because the place where claims are filed may not necessarily be the same

as the place of residence of the unemployed worker.

FERTILITY

The data on fertility (also referred to as “children ever born”) were derived from answers to questionnaire item 22, which was asked of all women 15 years old and over regardless of marital status. Stillbirths, stepchildren, and adopted children were excluded from the number of children ever born. Ever-married women were instructed to include all children born to them before and during their most recent marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home, as well as children who were still living in the home. Never-married women were instructed to include all children born to them. Data are most frequently presented in terms of the aggregate number of children ever born to women in the specified category and in terms of the rate per 1,000 women. For purposes of calculating the aggregate, the open-ended response category, “12 or more” is assigned a value of 13.

Limitation of the Data—The user is cautioned that the data may be less complete for out-of-wedlock births than for births occurring within marriage.

Comparability—The wording of the question on children ever born was the same in the 1997 and 1995 surveys as in the 1990 and 1980 censuses. In 1970, however, the question on children ever born was asked only of ever-married women. Data presented for children ever born to ever-married women are comparable for the 1997 and 1995 surveys, the 1990 census and all previous censuses containing this question.

HISPANIC ORIGIN

The data on Spanish/Hispanic origin were derived from answers to questionnaire item 7, which was asked of all persons. Persons of Hispanic origin

are those who classified themselves in one of the specific Hispanic origin categories listed on the questionnaire—“Dominican (Dominican Republic)”, “Puerto Rican”, or “Cuban”—as well as those who indicated that they were of “other Spanish/Hispanic” origin. Persons of “Other Spanish/Hispanic” origin are those whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, or they are persons of Hispanic origin identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, Hispanic, Hispanic, Latino, and so on.

Origin can be viewed as the ancestry, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States Virgin Islands. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Some tabulations are shown by the Hispanic origin of the householder. In all cases where households, families, or occupied housing units are classified by Hispanic origin, the Hispanic origin of the householder is used. (See the discussion of householder under “Household Type and Relationship”.)

During direct interviews conducted by enumerators, if a person could not provide a single origin response, he or she was asked to select, based on self-identification, the group which best described his or her origin or descent. If a person could not provide a single group, the origin of the person's mother was used. If a single group could not be provided for the person's mother, the first origin reported by the person was used.

If any household member failed to respond to the Spanish/Hispanic origin question, a response was assigned by the computer according to the reported entries of other household members by using specific rules of precedence of household relationship.

Comparability—The 1997 survey data on Hispanic origin are generally comparable with those for the 1995 survey and the 1990 census. However, there are some differences in the format of the Hispanic origin question between the 1990 and 1980 censuses. This question was asked in the Virgin Islands for the first time in 1980. For 1990, the word “descent” was deleted from the 1980 wording. In addition, the category “Dominican (Dominican Republic)” was added to the responses of “Puerto Rican”, “Cuban”, and “Other Spanish/Hispanic origin”. The 1990 question allowed those who reported as “Other Spanish/Hispanic” to write in their specific Hispanic origin group. The 1997 survey generally, followed the format of the 1995 survey and the 1990 census.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND RELATIONSHIP

A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a houseboat, a group of rooms, (or a single room that is occupied for if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. In 100-percent tabulations, the count of households or householders always equals the count of occupied housing units.

Persons Per Household—A measure obtained by dividing the number of persons in households by the number of households (or householders). In cases where persons in households are cross-classified by race or Hispanic origin, persons in the household are classified by the race or Hispanic origin of the householder rather

than the race or Hispanic origin of each individual.

Relationship to Householder

Householder—The data on relationship to householder were derived from answers to questionnaire item 3, which was asked of all persons in housing units. One person in each household is designated as the householder. In most cases, this is the person, or one of the persons, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented and who is listed in column 1 of the census questionnaire. If there is no such person in the household, any adult household member 15 years old and over could be designated as the householder.

Households are classified by type according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. Two types of householders are distinguished: a family householder and a nonfamily householder. A family householder as a householder living with one or more persons related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all persons in the household related to him or her are family members. A nonfamily householder is a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Spouse—Includes a person married to and living with a householder. This category includes persons in formal marriages, as well as persons classified as “consensually married”. The number of spouses is equal to the number of “married-couple families” or “married-couple households” in 100-percent tabulations.

Child—Includes a son or daughter by birth, a stepchild, or adopted child of the householder, regardless of the child's age or marital status. The category excludes sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and foster children.

Natural-born or Adopted Son/Daughter—
A son or daughter of the householder by birth,

regardless of the age of the child. Also, this category includes sons or daughters of the householder by legal adoption, regardless of the age of the child. If the stepson/stepdaughter of the householder has been legally adopted by the householder, the child is still classified as a stepchild.

Stepson/Stepdaughter—A son or daughter of the householder through marriage but not by birth, regardless of the age of the child. If the stepson/stepdaughter of the householder has been legally adopted by the householder, the child is still classified as a stepchild.

Own Child—A never-married child under 18 years who is a son or daughter by birth, stepchild, or an adopted child of the householder. In certain tabulations, own children are further classified as living with two parents or with one parent only. Own children of the householder living with two parents are by definition found only in married-couple families.

In a subfamily, an “own child” is a never-married child under 18 years of age who is a son, daughter, stepchild, or an adopted child of a mother in a mother-child subfamily, a father in a father-child subfamily, or either spouse in a married-couple subfamily.

“Related children” in a family include own children and all other persons under 18 years of age in the household, regardless of marital status, who are related to the householder, except the spouse of the householder. Foster children are not included since they are not related to the householder.

Other Relatives—In tabulations, includes any household member related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption, but not included specifically in another relationship category. In certain detailed tabulations, the following categories may be shown:

Grandchild—The grandson or granddaughter of the householder.

Brother/Sister—The brother or sister of the Householder, including stepbrothers, stepsisters, and brothers and sisters by adoption. Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law are included in the “Other relative” category on the questionnaire.

Parent—The father or mother of the householder, including a stepparent or adoptive parent. Fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law are included in the “other relative” category on the questionnaire.

Other Relatives—Anyone not listed in a reported category above who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption (brother-in-law, grandparent, nephew, aunt, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, cousin, and so forth).

Nonrelatives—Include any household member, including foster children not related to the Householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. The following categories may be presented in more detailed tabulations:

Roomer, Boarder, or Foster Child—Roomer, boarder lodger, and foster Children or foster adults of the householder.

Housemate or Roommate—A person who is not related to the householder and who shares living quarters primarily in order to share expenses.

Unmarried Partner—A person who is not related to the householder, who shares living quarters, and who has a close personal relationship with the householder. Persons in the Household are classified by the race or His-

panic origin of the householder rather than the race or Hispanic origin of each individual.

Other Nonrelative—A person who is not related by birth, marriage, or adoption to the householder and who is not described by the categories given above.

When relationship is not reported for an individual, it is imputed according to the responses for age, sex, and marital status for that person while maintaining consistency with responses for other individuals in the household. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix B, Accuracy of the Data.)

Unrelated Individual

An unrelated individual is: (1) a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only, (2) a household member who is not related to the householder, or (3) a person living in group quarters who is not an inmate of an institution.

Family Type

A family consists of a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All persons in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A household can contain only one family for purposes of census tabulations. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated persons or one person living alone.

Families are classified by type as either a “married-couple family” or “other family” according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. The data on family type are based on answers to questions on sex and relationship which were asked on a 100-percent basis.

Married-Couple Family—A family in which the householder and his or her spouse are enumerated as members of the same household.

Other Family:

Male Householder, No Wife Present—A family with a male householder and no spouse of householder present.

Female Householder, No Husband Present—A family with a female householder and no spouse of householder present.

Persons Per Family—A measure obtained by dividing the number of persons in families by the total number of families (or family householders).

In cases where the measure, “persons in family” or “persons per family” are cross-tabulated by race or Hispanic origin, the race or Hispanic origin refers to the householder rather than the race or Hispanic origin of each individual.

Subfamily

A subfamily is a married couple (husband and wife enumerated as members of the same household) with or without never-married children under 18 years old, or one parent with one or more never-married children under 18 years old, living in a household and related to, but not including, either the householder or the householder's spouse. The number of subfamilies is not included in the count of families, since subfamily members are counted as part of the householder's family.

Subfamilies are defined during processing of sample data. In selected tabulations, subfamilies are further classified by type: married-couple subfamilies, with or without own children; mother-child subfamilies; and father-child subfamilies. Lone parents include people maintaining either one parent families or one-parent subfamilies.

Married couples include husbands and wives in both married-couple families and married-couple subfamilies.

Unmarried-Partner Household

An unmarried-partner household is a household other than a “married-couple household” that includes a householder and an “unmarried partner”. An “unmarried partner” can be of the same sex or of the opposite sex of the householder. An “unmarried partner” in an “unmarried partner household” is an adult who is unrelated to the householder, but shares living quarters and has a close personal relationship with the householder.

Unmarried-Couple Household

An unmarried-couple household is composed of two unrelated adults of the opposite sex (one of whom is the householder) who share a housing unit with or without the presence of children under 15 years old.

Foster Children

Foster children are nonrelatives of the householder and are included in the category, “Roomer, boarder, or foster child” on the questionnaire. Foster children are identified as persons under 18 years old and living in households that have no nonrelatives 18 years old and over (who might be parents of the nonrelatives under 18).

Stepfamily

A stepfamily is a “married-couple family” with at least one stepchild of the householder present, where the householder is the husband.

Comparability—The 1997 survey definition of a household is the same as that used in the 1995 survey and the 1990 and 1980 censuses. As in the 1990 census, the 1980 relationship category “Son/daughter” has been replaced by two categories,

“Natural-born or adopted son/daughter” and “Stepson/stepdaughter”. “Grandchild” has been added as a separate category. The 1980 nonrelative categories: “Roomer boarder” and “Roommate” have been replaced by the categories “Roomer, boarder, or foster child”, “Housemate, roommate”, and “Unmarried partner”. The 1980 nonrelative category “Paid employee” has been dropped.

INCOME IN 1996

The data on income in 1996 were derived from answers to questionnaire items 31 and 32. Information on money income received in the calendar year 1996 was requested from persons 15 years old and over. “Total income” is the algebraic sum of the amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net nonfarm self-employment income; net farm self-employment income; interest, dividend, or net rental or royalty income; Social Security or railroad retirement incomes public assistance or welfare income; retirement or disability income; and all other income. “Earnings” is defined as the algebraic sum of wage or salary income and net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment. “Earnings” represent the amount of income received regularly before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, medicare deductions, etc.

Receipts from the following sources are not included as income: money received from the sale of property (unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property); the value of income “in kind” from food stamps, public housing subsidies, medical care, employer contributions for persons, etc.; withdrawal of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; exchange of money between relatives living in the same household; gifts and lump-sum inheritances, insurance payments, and other types of lump-sum receipts.

Income Type in 1996

The eight types of income reported in the census are defined as follows:

1. **Wage or Salary /Income**—Includes total money earnings received for work performed as an employee during the calendar year 1996. It includes wages, salary, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned before deductions were made for taxes, bonds, pensions, union dues, etc.
2. **Nonfarm Self-Employment Income**—Includes net money income (gross receipts minus expenses) from one's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership. Gross receipts include the value of all goods sold and services rendered. Expenses include costs of goods purchased, rent, heat, light, power, depreciation charges, wages and salaries paid, business taxes (not personal income taxes), etc.
3. **Farm Self-Employment Income**—Includes net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on his or her own account, as an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts include the value of all products sold, government farm programs, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, and incidental receipts from the sale of wood, sand, gravel, etc. Operating expenses include cost of feed, fertilizer, seed, and other farming supplies, cash wages paid to farmlands, depreciation charges, cash rent, interest on farm mortgages, farm building repairs, farm taxes (not local and Federal personal income taxes), etc. The value of fuel, food, or other farm products used for family living is not included as part of net income.
4. **Interest, Dividend, or Net Rental Income**—Includes interest on savings or bonds, dividends from stock-holdings or membership in associations, net income from rental of property to others and receipts from boarders or lodgers, net royalties, and periodic payments from an estate or trust fund.
5. **Social Security/Income**—Includes Social Security pensions and survivors benefits and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration prior to deductions for medical insurance, and railroad retirement insurance checks from the U.S. Government. Medicare reimbursements are not included.
6. **Public Assistance/Income**—Includes: (1) supplementary security income payments made by Federal or local welfare agencies to low income persons who are aged (65 years old or over), blind, or disabled; (2) aid to families with dependent children, and (3) general assistance. Separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) are excluded from this item.
7. **Retirement or Disability Income**—Includes: (1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer, labor union, or Federal, local, or other governmental agency; (2) disability income from sources such as worker's compensations companies or unions Federal or local government; and the U.S. military; (3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and (4) regular income from IRA and KEOGH plans.
8. **All Other Income**—Includes unemployment compensation, Veterans Administration (VA) payments, alimony and child support, contributions received periodically from persons not living in the household, military family allotments, net gambling winnings, and

other kinds of periodic income other than earnings.

Income of Households—Includes the income of the householder and all other persons 15 years old and over in the household, whether related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

Income of Families and Persons—In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over in each family are summed and treated as a single amount. However, for persons 15 years old and over, the total amounts of their own incomes are used. Although the income statistics covered the calendar year 1996, the characteristics of persons and the composition of families refer to the time of enumeration (March 1, 1997). Thus, the income of the family does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the calendar year 1996 if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. Yet, family income amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during 1996 but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration are included. However, the composition of most families was the same during 1996 as in March 1997.

Median Income—The median divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. For households and families, the median income is based on the distribution of the total number of units including those with no income. The median for persons is based on persons with income. The median income values for all households, families, and persons are computed on the basis of more detailed income intervals than shown in most tabulations.

Median income figures are calculated using linear interpolation.

Mean Income—This is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a particular statistical universe by the number of units in that universe. Thus, mean household income is obtained by dividing total household income by the total number of households. For the various types of income the means are based on households having those types of income. “Per capita income” is the mean income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. It is derived by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group.

Care should be exercised in using and interpreting mean income values for small subgroups of the population. Because the mean is influenced strongly by extreme values in the distribution, it is especially susceptible to the effects of sampling variability, misreporting, and processing errors. The median, which is not affected by extreme values, is, therefore, a better measure than the mean when the population base is small. The mean, nevertheless, is shown in some data products for most small subgroups because, when weighted according to the number of cases, the means can be added to obtained summary measures for areas and groups other than those shown in census tabulations.

Limitation of the Data—Since questionnaire entries for income frequently are based on memory and not on records, many persons tended to forget minor or irregular sources of income and, therefore, underreport their income. Underreporting tends to be more pronounced for income sources that are not derived from earnings, such as Social Security, public assistance, or from interest, dividends, and net rental income.

In the 1990 census, there were errors of reporting due to the misunderstanding of the income questions such as reporting gross rather than net dollar amounts for the two questions on net self-

employment income, which resulted in an overstatement of these items. Another common error was the reporting of identical dollar amounts in two of the eight type of income items where a respondent with only one source of income assumed that the second amount should be entered to represent total income. Such instances of over-reporting had an impact on the level of mean non-farm or farm self-employment income and mean total income published for the various geographical subdivisions of the area.

Extensive computer editing procedures were instituted in the data processing operation to reduce some of these reporting errors and to improve the accuracy of the income data. These procedures corrected various reporting deficiencies and improved the consistency of reported income items associated with work experience and information on occupation and class of worker. For example, if persons reported they were self-employed on their own farm, not incorporated, but had reported wage and salary earnings only, the latter amount was shifted to net farm self employment income. Also, if any respondent reported total income only, the amount was generally assigned to one of the type of income items according to responses to the work experience and class-of-worker questions. Another type of problem involved nonreporting of income data. Where income information was not reported, procedures were devised to impute appropriate values with either no income or positive or negative dollar amounts for the missing entries. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix B, Accuracy of the Data.)

In income tabulations for households and families, the lowest income group (e.g., less than \$1,000) includes units that were classified as having no 1996 income. Many of these were living on income “in kind”, savings, or gifts, were newly created families, or families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or left the household. However, many of the households and families who reported no income probably

had some money income that was not recorded in the census.

The income data presented in the tabulations covers money income only. The fact that many farm families receive an important part of their income in the form of “free” housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm rather than in money should be taken into consideration in comparing the income of farm and nonfarm residents. Non-money income such as business expense accounts, use of business transportation and facilities, or partial compensation by business for medical and educational expenses was also received by some nonfarm residents. Many low income families also receive income “in kind” from public welfare programs. In comparing income data for 1996 with earlier years, it should be noted that an increase or decrease in money income does not necessarily represent a comparable change in real income, unless adjustments for changes in prices are made.

Comparability—The income data collected in the 1980 and 1970 censuses are similar to the 1990 census and the 1995 and 1997 survey data, but there are variations in the detail of the 1995 and 1997 survey questionnaire items. Each person was required to report:

- Wage or salary income
- Net nonfarm self-employment income
- Net farm self-employment income
- Interest, dividend, or net rental or royalty income
- Social Security income
- Public assistance income

- Income from all other sources

There were minor differences in the processing of data between the 1980 and 1990 censuses and that of the 1995 and 1997 surveys. In both the censuses as well as the surveys all persons with missing values in one or more of the detailed type of income items and total income were designated as allocated. Each missing entry was imputed either as a “no” or as a dollar amount. If total income was reported and one or more of the type of income fields was not answered, then the entry in total income generally was assigned to one of the income types according to the socioeconomic characteristics of the income recipient. This person was designated as unallocated.

In the 1995 and the 1997 surveys, as in the 1980 and 1990 censuses, all nonrespondents with income not reported (whether heads of households or other persons) were assigned the reported income of persons with similar characteristics. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix B, “Accuracy of the Data”.)

There was a difference in the method of computer derivation of aggregate income from individual amounts between the two census processing operations. In the 1980 census, income amounts less than \$100,000 were coded in tens of dollars, and amounts of \$100,000 or more were coded in thousands of dollars; \$5 was added to each amount coded in tens of dollars and \$500 to each amount coded in thousands of dollars. Entries of \$999,000 or more were treated as \$999,500 and losses of \$9,999 or more were treated as minus \$9,999. In the 1990 census, income amounts less than \$999,999 were keyed in dollars. Amounts of \$999,999 or more were treated as \$999,999 and losses of \$9,999 or more were treated as minus \$9,999 in all of the computer derivations of aggregate income.

In 1970, if a person reported a dollar amount in wage or salary, net nonfarm self-employment income, or net farm self-employment income, the

person was considered as unallocated only if no further dollar amounts were imputed for any additional missing entries.

INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, AND CLASS OF WORKER

The data on industry, occupation, and class of worker were derived from answers to questionnaire items 27, 28 and 29 respectively. Information on industry relates to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization; occupation describes the kind of work the person does on the job.

For employed persons, the data refer to the person's job during the reference week. For those who worked at two or more jobs, the data refer to the job at which the person worked the greatest number of hours. For unemployed persons, the data refer to their last job. The industry and occupation statistics are derived from the detailed classification systems developed for the 1990 census as described below. *The Classified Index of Industries and Occupations* provided additional information on the industry and occupation classification systems.

Respondents provided the data for the tabulations by writing on the questionnaires descriptions of their industry and occupation. All cases were coded by the survey statistician at the Eastern Caribbean Center. Survey editors converted the written questionnaire descriptions to code by comparing these descriptions to entries in the Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations.

Industry

The industry classification system used in the 1997 and 1995 surveys was developed for the 1990 census and consists of 236 categories for employed persons, classified into 13 major industry groups. Since 1940, the industrial classifi-

cation has been based on the Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SIC). The 1990 census classification was developed from the 1987 SIC published by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

The SIC was designed primarily to classify establishment by the type of industrial activity in which they were engaged. However, census data, which were collected from households, differ in detail and nature from those obtained from establishment surveys. Therefore, the census classification systems, while defined in 51C terms, cannot reflect the full detail in all categories. There are several levels of industrial classification found in census products.

Occupation

The occupational classification system developed for the 1990 census and used in the 1995 and 1997 surveys, consists of 500 specific occupational categories for employed persons arranged into 6 summary and 13 major occupational groups. This classification was developed to be consistent with the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Manual: 1980, published by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tabulations with occupation as the primary characteristic present several levels of occupational detail. The most detailed tabulations were shown in special 1990 tape files on occupation. This product contains all 501 occupational categories.

Some occupation groups are related closely to certain industries. Operators of transportation equipment, farm operators and workers, and private household workers account for major portions of their respective industries of transportation, agriculture, and private households. However, the industry categories include persons in other occupations. For example, persons employed in agriculture include truck drivers and bookkeepers; persons employed in the transporta-

tion industry include mechanics, freight handlers, and payroll clerks; and persons employed in the private household industry include occupations such as chauffeur, gardener, and secretary.

Class of Worker

The data on class of worker were derived from answers to questionnaire item 29. The information on class of worker refers to the same job as a respondent's industry and occupation and categorizes persons according to the type of ownership of the employing organization. The class of worker categories are defined as follows:

Private Wage and Salary Workers—Includes persons who worked for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay-in-kind, or piece rates for a private for profit employer or a private not-for-profit, tax-exempt or charitable organization. Self-employed persons whose business was incorporated are included with private wage and salary workers because they are paid employees of their own companies. Some tabulations present data separately for these sub-categories: "For profit", "Not for profit", and "Own business incorporated".

Government Workers—Includes persons who were employees of any local, or Federal governmental unit, regardless of the activity of the particular agency. For some tabulations, the data were presented separately for the two levels of government.

Self-Employed Workers—Includes persons who worked for profit or fees in their own unincorporated business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm.

Unpaid Family Workers—Includes persons who worked 15 hours or more without pay in a business or on a farm operated by a relative.

Salaried/Self-employed—In tabulations that categorize persons as either salaried or self-employed, the salaried category includes private and government wage and salary workers; self-employed includes self-employed persons and unpaid family workers.

The industry category, “Public administration”, limited is to regular government functions such as legislative, judicial, administrative, and regulatory activities of governments. Other government organizations such as schools, hospitals, liquor stores, and bus lines are classified by industry according to the activity in which they are engaged. On the other hand, the class of worker government categories include all government workers.

Occasionally respondents supplied industry occupation, or class of worker descriptions which are sufficiently specific for precise classification or did not report on these items at all. Some of these cases were corrected through the field editing process and during the coding and tabulation operations. In the coding operations, certain types of incomplete entries were corrected using the *Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations*. For example, it was possible in certain situations to assign an industry code based on the occupation reported.

Following the coding operations, there was a computer edit and an allocation process. The edit first determined whether a respondent was in the universe which required an industry and occupation code. The codes for the three items (industry, occupation, and class of worker) were checked to ensure they were valid and were edited for their relation to each other. Invalid and inconsistent codes were either blanked or changed to a consistent code.

If one or more of the three codes were blank after the edit, a code was assigned from a “similar” person based on other items such as age, sex, education, farm or nonfarm residence, and weeks

worked. If all the labor force and income data also were blank, all these economic items were assigned from one other person who provided all the necessary data.

Comparability—Comparability of industry and occupation data was affected by a number of factors, primarily the systems used to classify the questionnaire responses. For both the industry and occupation classification systems, the basic structures were generally the same from 1940 to 1970, but changes in the individual categories limited comparability of the data from one census to another. These changes were needed to recognize the “birth” of new industries and occupations, the “death” of others, and the growth and decline in existing industries and occupations, as well as, the desire of analysts and other users for more detail in the presentation of the data. Probably the greatest cause of incomparability is the movement of a segment of a category to a different category in the next census. Changes in the nature of Jobs and respondent terminology, and refinement of category composition made these movements necessary.

In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, as in the 1990 census, the industry classification had minor revisions to reflect changes to the SIC. The 1997 occupational classification system is essentially the same as that for the 1995 survey and the 1980 and 1990 censuses. However, the conversion of the census classification to the SOC in 1980 meant that the classification systems of the 1990 census and 1995 and 1997 surveys were less comparable to the classifications used prior to the 1980 census.

Other factors that affected data comparability included the universe to which the data referred (in 1970, the age cutoff for labor force was changed from 14 years to 16 years); how the industry and occupation questions were worded on the questionnaire (for example, important changes were made in 1970); improvements in the coding procedures (the Employer Name List technique was

introduced in 1960); and how the “not reported” cases are handled. Prior to 1970, they were placed in the residual categories, “Industry not reported” and “Occupation not reported”. In 1970, an allocation process was introduced that assigned these cases to major groups. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, as in 1980, and 1990 censuses, the “Not reported” cases were assigned to individual categories. Therefore, the 1980 and 1990 censuses as well as the 1995 and 1997 data for individual categories included some numbers of persons who were tabulated in a “Not reported” category in previous censuses.

The following publications contain information on the various factors affecting comparability and are particularly useful for understanding differences in the occupation and industry information from earlier censuses: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Changes Between the 1950 and 1960 Occupation and Industry Classifications with Detailed Adjustments of 1950 Data to the 1960 Classifications*, Technical Paper No. 18, 1968; U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1970 Occupation and Industry Classification Systems in Terms of their 1960 Occupation and Industry Elements*, Technical Paper No. 26, 1972; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, *The Relationship Between the 1970 and 1980 Industry and Occupation Classification Systems*, Technical Paper No. 59, 1988. For citations for earlier census years, see the 1980 Census of Population report, PC801-D, *Detailed Population Characteristics*.

As in the 1990 census, the 1995 survey added a new class of worker category for “private not-for-profit” employers. This category is a subset of the 1980 category “employee of private employer”. Also in 1995, as in 1990, employees of foreign governments, the United Nations, etc., are classified as “private not-for-profit”, rather than Federal Government as in 1970 and 1980. While in theory, there was a change in comparability, in practice, the small number of U.S. residents

working for foreign governments made this change negligible. In the 1997 survey these categories were eliminated.

Comparability between the statistics on industry and occupation from the 1997 and 1995 surveys, and 1990 census, and statistics from other sources is affected by many of the factors described in the section on “Employment Status”. These factors are primarily geographic differences between residence and place of work, different dates of reference, and differences in counts because of dual job holding. Industry data from population censuses cover all industries and all kinds of workers, whereas, data from establishments often excluded private household workers, government workers, and the self-employed. Also, the replies from household respondents may have differed in detail and nature from those obtained from establishments.

Occupation data from the census and the 1995 survey and data from government licensing agencies, professional associations, trade unions, etc., may not be as comparable as expected. Organizational listings often include persons not in the labor force or persons devoting all or most of their time to another occupation; or the same person may be included in two or more different listings. In addition, relatively few organizations, except for those requiring licensing, attained complete coverage of membership in a particular occupational field.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK AND WRITE IN LANGUAGE

Data on language spoken at home were derived from the answers to questionnaire items 15a through 15d. They are intended to measure the extent to which languages other than English are currently being spoken and how frequently they are spoken relative to English. The questions were asked of all persons.

Language Spoken at Home—Persons were asked in questionnaire item 15a whether they currently speak a language other than English at home. They were not to include languages spoken only at school or languages for which the ability is limited to a few words or slang. Persons who spoke only English at home were instructed to answer “No” and skip the remainder of the language questions.

Those persons who reported speaking a language other than English were asked in question 15b to report the non-English language spoken at home. If more than one non-English language was spoken, the person was asked which language was spoken most often. If it could not be determined which was spoken most often, the first language the person learned to speak was to be recorded. The response was written on the form by the enumerator and later given a three-digit code in a separate operation. Answers were coded using a detailed list of languages which distinguished more than 380 languages or language groups. If more than one language was written on the form only the first non-English language was coded.

The “imputation” procedure for persons who failed to report language spoken involved attributing the language of other household members to a person with no entry. If that was not possible, the language of a person of like ethnic origin and other demographic characteristics was imputed. Unreported reading and writing in the non-English language was allocated in a similar manner.

Comparability—In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, persons who reported in 15a that they spoke a language other than English at home were asked to report in 15c and 15d whether they read and write respectively, in this language; this data was reported in censuses before 1980. Questionnaire items were changed in the 1980 and 1990 censuses to report data on proficiency in writing and speaking in the English language, and whether a

non-English language was spoken at home. Data that reported proficiency in English Language were not reported in the 1997 and 1995 surveys.

LITERACY

Data on literacy, or ability to read and write, were derived from responses to questionnaire items 15a through 15d in census questionnaires that were asked of all persons. However, in the 1995 survey, data reported literacy in any non-English language.

In previous censuses, the data are generally shown only for persons 10 years old and over since persons less than 10 years old have not yet completed the 5th grade and are more likely to be considered not literate only because of the limited exposure to schooling. Respondents were asked if they could read and write in any language. The enumerators were instructed that a literate person would have the ability to read a letter from someone else and also write a letter. A person was not literate if he/she could read but not write, or if the writing ability was limited to writing the person's own name.

MARITAL STATUS

The data on marital status were derived from answers to questionnaire item 6, which was asked of all persons. The marital status classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Data on marital status are tabulated only for persons 15 years old and over.

All persons were asked whether they were “now married”, “consensually married”, “widowed”, “divorced”, “separated”, or “never married”. Couples who live together (unmarried persons, persons consensually married) were allowed to report the marital status they considered the most appropriate.

Never Married—Includes all persons who have never been married, including persons whose only marriage(s) was annulled.

Ever Married—Includes persons married at the time of enumeration (including those separated), widowed, or divorced.

Now Married, Except Separated—includes persons whose current marriage has not ended through widowhood, divorce, or separation (regardless of previous marital history). The category may also include couples who live together or persons in common-law marriages, if they consider this category the most appropriate. In certain tabulations, currently married persons are further classified as “spouse present” or “spouse absent”. In selected tabulations, data for married and separated persons are reorganized and combined with information on the presence of the spouse in the same household.

Consensually Married—Includes persons living in a marital union without a civil or religious matrimonial contract and are classified as “now married” they are reported separately as “consensually married”. The category may also include couples who live together if they consider this category the most appropriate.

Separated—Includes persons legally separated or otherwise absent from their spouse because of marital discord. Included are persons who have been deserted or who have parted because they no longer want to live together but who have not obtained a divorce.

Widowed—Includes widows and widowers who have not remarried.

Divorced—Includes persons who are legally divorced and who have not remarried.

Now Married—All persons whose current marriage has not ended by widowhood or divorce.

This category includes persons defined above as “separated”.

Spouse Present—Married persons whose wife or husband was enumerated as a member of the same household, including those whose spouse may have been temporarily absent for such reasons as travel or hospitalization.

Spouse Absent—Married persons whose wife or husband was not enumerated as a member of the same household. This category also includes all married persons living in group quarters.

Separated—Defined above.

Spouse Absent, Other—Married persons whose wife or husband was not enumerated as a member of the same household, excluding separated. Included is any person whose spouse was employed and living away from home or in an institution or absent in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Differences between the number of currently married males and the number of currently married females occur because of reporting differences and because some husbands and wives have their usual residence in different areas.

When marital status was not reported, it was imputed according to the relationship to the householder and sex and age of the person. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix B, Accuracy of the Data.)

Comparability—The 1997 and 1995 surveys marital status definitions are the same as those used in the 1990 census, and these reflected the 1980 census with the exception of the term “never married” which replaced the 1980 term “single” in tabulations. A general marital status question has been asked in every census since 1880.

MILITARY BENEFITS

The data on military benefits were derived from answers to questionnaire item 21. Military benefits include money received regularly from retirement or disability pensions paid by the U.S. military or the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to former members of the Armed Forces or their survivors. U.S. military retirement income is received by retired military personnel who served for 20 years or more in the Armed Forces. Corresponding military retirement disability income is received by veterans with 20 or more years service before retiring due to a disability or other serious health condition. U. S. Military survivor pensions are received by survivors of military personnel who retired before their death. The VA benefits include (1) disability payments received by veterans with a service-connected disability or by low-income veterans with a non-service-connected disability and (2) pensions received by survivors of veterans whose death occurred while in military service.

Comparability—The 1990 census was the first time that a question on military benefits was included in the census; the questionnaire item in the 1997 and 1995 surveys reported similar data.

MOBILITY LIMITATION STATUS

The data on mobility limitation status were derived from answers to questionnaire items 18 and 19 which were asked of all persons. Persons were identified as having a mobility limitation if they had a health condition that had lasted for 6 or more months and which made it difficult to go outside the home alone. Examples of outside activities on the questionnaire included shopping and visiting the doctor's office. The term "health condition" referred to both physical and mental conditions. A temporary health problem, such as a broken bone that was expected to heal normally, was not considered a health condition.

Comparability—The 1995 survey questionnaire item was similar to the questionnaire item which reported data on mobility limitation, and was asked in the 1990 census for the first time.

PLACE OF BIRTH AND PARENTS' PLACE OF BIRTH

The data on place of birth were derived from answers to questionnaire item 8. Mother's place of birth and father's place of birth were derived from answers to questionnaire items 11a and 11b. Each place of birth question asked for the name of the island, the U.S. State, or the foreign country where the person or the person's parents were born according to current international boundaries. Since numerous changes in boundaries of foreign countries have occurred in the last century, some persons may have reported their place of birth or their parents' place of birth in terms of boundaries that existed at the time of the birth of emigration, or in accordance with their own national preference.

Persons not reporting place of birth were assigned the birthplace of another family member or were allocated the response of another person or parent with similar characteristics. Persons allocated as born outside the area of current residence were not allocated a specific foreign country of birth, but were classified as "Born abroad, country or area not specified". The places of birth shown in the report were selected based on the number of respondents who chose to report that area or country of birth.

Comparability—Similar data were shown in tabulations for the 1997 and 1995 surveys as for the 1990 and 1980 censuses. However, nonresponse was not allocated. Instead, such persons were shown separately in the tables under "Place of birth not reported".

POVERTY STATUS IN 1996

The data on poverty status were derived from answers to the same questions as the income data, questionnaire items 31 and 32. (For more information see the discussion under "Income in 1994".) Poverty statistics presented in 1997 and 1995 surveys and census publications were based on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and subsequently modified by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1980. These poverty statistics were prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget in Directive 14 as the standard to be used by Federal agencies for statistical purposes.

At the core of this definition was the 1961 economy food plan, the least costly of four nutritionally adequate food plans designed by the Department of Agriculture. It was determined from the Agriculture Department's 1955 survey of food consumption that families of three or more per-

sons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; hence, the poverty level for these families was set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses for these smaller households.

The income cutoffs used by the Census Bureau to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals included a set of 48 thresholds arranged in a two-dimensional matrix consisting of family size (from 1 person to 9 or more persons) cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to 8 or more children present). Unrelated individuals and two-person families were further differentiated by age of the householder (under 65 year old and 65 years old and over).

Table A. Poverty Thresholds in 1996 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of Family Unit	Related children under 18 Years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual).....	\$8,163								
Under 65 years.....	7,525								
65 years and over.....									
Two persons.....									
Householder									
Under 65 years.....	10,507	\$10,815							
Householder									
65 years and over....	9,484	10,774							
Three persons.....	12,273	12,629	\$12,614						
Four persons.....	16,183	16,448	15,911	\$15,967					
Five persons.....	19,516	19,800	19,194	18,725	\$18,438				
Six persons.....	22,447	22,536	22,072	21,627	20,965	\$20,573			
Seven persons.....	25,828	25,990	25,434	25,046	24,324	23,482	\$22,558		
Eight persons.....	28,887	29,142	28,617	28,158	27,506	26,678	25,816	\$25,597	
Nine or more persons....	34,749	34,917	34,453	34,063	33,423	32,542	31,746	31,548	\$30,333

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Survey*.

The total income of each family or unrelated individual in the sample was tested against the appropriate poverty threshold to determine the poverty status of that family or unrelated individual. If the total income was less than the corresponding cutoff, the family or unrelated individual was classified as “below the poverty level”. The number of persons below the poverty level was the sum of the number of persons in families with incomes below the poverty level and the number of unrelated individuals with incomes below the poverty level.

The poverty thresholds are revised annually to allow for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index. The average poverty threshold for a family of four persons was \$12,674 in 1989 and \$15,141 in 1994. (For information on the 1996 poverty thresholds, see Table A.) Poverty thresholds were applied on a national basis for the U.S. and were not adjusted for regional, State or local variations in the cost of living. Therefore, the thresholds used for the Virgin Islands are the same as those used in the United States. For a detailed discussion of the poverty definition, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, *Series P-60, No. 171, Poverty in the United States: 1988 and 1989*.

Persons for Whom Poverty Status is Determined—Poverty status was determined for all persons except institutionalized persons, persons in military group quarters and in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. These groups also were excluded from the denominator when calculating poverty rates.

Specified Poverty Levels—Since the poverty levels currently in use by the Federal Government do not meet all the needs of data users, some of the data are presented for alternate levels. These specified poverty levels are obtained by multiplying the income cutoffs at the poverty level by

the appropriate factor. For example, the average income cutoff at 125 percent of poverty level was \$18,926 ($\$15,141 \times 1.25$) in 1994 for a family of four persons.

Weighted Average Thresholds at the Poverty Level—The average thresholds shown in the first column of Table A are weighted by the presence and number of children. For example, the weighted average threshold for a given family size is obtained by multiplying the threshold for each presence and number of children category within the given family size by the number of families in that category. These products are then aggregated across the entire range of presence and number of children categories, and the aggregate is divided by the total number of families in the group to yield the weighted average threshold at the poverty level for that family size.

Since the basic thresholds used to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals are applied to all families and unrelated individuals, the weighted average poverty thresholds are derived using all families and unrelated individuals rather than just those classified as being below the poverty level.

Income Deficit—Represents the difference between the total income of families and unrelated individuals below the poverty level and their respective poverty thresholds. In computing the income deficit, families reporting a net income loss are assigned zero dollars and for such cases the deficit is equal to the poverty threshold.

This measure provided an estimate of the amount that would be required to raise the incomes of all poor families and unrelated individuals to their respective poverty thresholds. The income deficit is thus a measure of the degree of impoverishment of a family or unrelated individual. However, caution must be used in comparing the average deficits of families with different characteristics. Apparent differences in average income

deficits may, to some extent, be a function of differences in family size.

Mean Income Deficit—Represents the amount obtained by dividing the total income deficit of a group below the poverty level by the number of families for unrelated individuals) in that group.

Comparability—The poverty definition used in the 1997 and 1995 surveys was the same as that used in the 1990 and 1980 censuses. This differed slightly from the definition used in the 1970 census. Three technical modifications were made to the definition used in the 1970 census as described below:

1. The separate thresholds for families with a female householder with no husband present and all other families were eliminated. For the 1980 and 1990 censuses, the weighted average of the poverty thresholds for these two types of families was applied to all types of families, regardless of the sex of the householder.
2. Farm families and farm unrelated individuals no longer had a set of poverty thresholds that were lower than the thresholds applied to nonfarm families and unrelated individuals. The farm thresholds were 85 percent of the corresponding levels for nonfarm families in the 1970 census. The same thresholds were applied to all families and unrelated individuals regardless of residence in 1980 and 1990.
3. The thresholds by size of family were extended from seven or more persons in 1970 to nine or more persons in 1980 and 1990.

These changes resulted in a minimal increase in the number of poor at the national level. For a complete discussion of these modifications and

their impact, see the Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 133.

The population covered in the poverty statistics derived from the 1980 and 1990 censuses was essentially the same as in the 1970 census. The only difference was that in 1980 and 1990, unrelated individuals under 15 years old were excluded from the poverty universe, while in 1970, only those under 14 years old were excluded. The poverty data from the 1960 census excluded all persons in group quarters and included all unrelated individuals regardless of age. It was unlikely that these differences in population coverage would have had significant impact when comparing the poverty data for persons since the 1960 census.

RACE

The data on race were derived from answers to questionnaire item 4, which was asked of all persons. The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau reflects self-identification; it does not denote any clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. The data for race represent self-classification by people according to the race with which they most closely identify. Furthermore, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include both racial and national origin or socio-cultural groups.

During direct interviews conducted by enumerators, if a person could not provide a single response to the race question, he or she was asked to select, based on self-identification, the group which best described his or her racial identity. If a person could not provide a single race response, the race of the mother was used. If a single race response could not be provided for the person's mother, the first race reported by the person was used. In all cases where occupied housing units, households, or families are classified by race, the race of the householder was used.

The racial classification used by the Census Bureau generally adheres to the guidelines in Federal Statistical Directive No. 15, issued by the Office of Management and Budget, which provides standards on ethnic and racial categories for statistical reporting to be used by all Federal agencies. The racial categories used in the 1990 census data products are provided below.

Black—Includes persons who indicated their race as “Black or Negro” or reported entries such as West Indian, Jamaican, Haitian, Black Puerto Rican, African American, or Afro-American.

White—Includes persons who indicated their race as “White” or reported entries such as French, German, Dutch, Danish, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish.

Asian or Pacific Islander—Includes persons who indicated their race as “Asian or Pacific Islander” or reported entries such as Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Hawaiian, Samoan, or Guamanian.

American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut—Includes persons who classified themselves as such in one of the specific race categories identified below.

American Indian—Includes persons who indicated their race as “American Indian”, entered the name of an Indian tribe, or reported such entries as Canadian Indian, French-American Indian, or Spanish-American Indian.

Eskimo—Includes persons who indicated their race as “Eskimo” or reported entries such as Arctic Slope, Inupiat, and Yupik.

Aleut—Includes persons who indicated their race as “Aleut” or reported entries such as Aleut, Alutiq, Egegik, Pribilovian.

Other Race—Includes all other persons not included in the “Black”, “White”, “Asian or Pacific Islander”, or the “American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut” race categories described above. Persons reporting in the “Other race” category and providing write-in entries such as multiracial, multiethnic, mixed, interracial, or a Spanish/Hispanic origin group (such as Mexican, Cuban, or Puerto Rican) are included here.

If the race entry for a member of a household was missing on the questionnaire, race was assigned based upon the reported entries of race by other household members using specific rules of precedence of household relationship. For example, if race was missing for the daughter of the householder, then the race of her mother (as female householder or female spouse) would be assigned. If there was no female householder or spouse in the household, the daughter would be assigned her father's (male householder) race. If race was not reported for anyone in the household, the race of a householder in a previously processed household was assigned. This procedure is a variation of the general imputation procedures described in Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data.

Limitation of the Data—In the 1997 and 1995 surveys as well as the 1990 census, respondents sometimes did not fill in a check box or filled the “Other race” check box and wrote in a response, such as West Indian, in this write-in space for “Other race”. During the coding and editing process, these responses were assigned to the appropriate racial designation. Also, some Hispanic origin persons did not mark a race category, but provided entries such as Mexican or Puerto Rican. These persons were classified in the “Other race” category during the coding and editing process.

Comparability—The questionnaire item which reported racial groups in the 1997 survey was similar to that in the 1990 census with slight differences between the choice offered in racial

groups. The 1997 and 1995 surveys listed “*Lebanese, Indian, Arab, Chinese*” under Asian and “*Japanese, Filipino*” under Pacific Islander; these choices closely resembled possible racial groups residing in the Virgin Islands. The remainder of the questionnaire item mirrored the 1990 census.

Differences between the 1990 census and earlier censuses affect the comparability of data for certain racial groups. In the 1980 census, there were no separate categories for persons identifying as “Asian or Pacific Islander” or “Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, or Aleut”. Persons who identified as such were reported in the “Other” category. In the 1990 census, there were separate categories for “Asian or Pacific Islander” and “Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, or Aleut”, as well as two write-in spaces allowing “Asian or Pacific Islander” persons or “Other race” persons to identify specific race groups. (In 1980 there was just one write-in space for persons identifying as “Other”.) Persons entering a write-in response had their individual entries coded and classified to the appropriate race regardless of whether they filled a check box. This allowed for the accurate tabulation and reporting of persons identifying as “Asian or Pacific Islander” or “Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, or Aleut” along with those reporting as “Black or Negro” or “White” in the 1990 census.

REFERENCE WEEK

The data on labor force status was related to the reference week; that is, the calendar week preceding the date on which the respondents were interviewed by enumerators. This week is not the same for all respondents since the enumeration was not completed in one week. The occurrence of holidays during the enumeration period could affect the data on actual hours worked during the reference week, but probably had no effect on overall measurement of employment status (see the discussion below on “Comparability”).

Comparability—The reference weeks for the 1997 survey included that time between the first week of March 1997 and the second week of September, 1997 during which time enumerators worked in the field. Some workers may have observed holidays such as Presidents’ Day or other local holidays.

The 1990 and 1980 censuses differed in that Passover and Good Friday occurred in the first week of April 1980, but in the second week of April 1990. Many workers presumably took time off for those observances. The differing occurrence of these holidays could affect the comparability of the 1997 and 1995 survey data and that of the 1990 and 1980 census data on actual hours worked for some areas if the respective weeks containing holidays were the reference weeks for a significant number of persons. The holidays probably did not affect the overall measurement of employment status since this information was based on work activity during the entire reference week.

RESIDENCE IN 1992

The data on residence in the 1997 survey were derived from answers to questionnaire item 14b. For those persons reporting in question 14a that on March 1, 1992 they lived in a different house than their current residence, (March 1, 1997), this item asked for the name of the island in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the U.S. State, commonwealth, territory, or foreign country where the person was then living. Residence in 1992 is used in conjunction with location of current residence to determine the extent of residential mobility of the population and the resulting redistribution of the population among the islands and between the islands and the U.S. States and foreign countries.

When no information on residence in 1992 was reported for a person, information for other family members, if available, was used to assign a location of residence in 1992. All cases of nonre-

sponse or incomplete response that were not assigned a previous residence based on information from other family members were allocated the previous residence of another person with similar characteristics who provided complete information.

The tabulation category, "Same house", includes all persons 5 years old and over who did not move during the 5 years as well as those who had moved but by 1997 had returned to their 1990 residence. The category, "Different house in the U.S. Virgin Islands", includes persons who lived in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1990 but in a different house or apartment from the one they occupied on March 1, 1997. These movers are then further subdivided according to the type of move. In most tabulations, persons who moved within the U.S. Virgin Islands are divided into those moving within the same island and those moving from a different island. Movers from outside the U.S. Virgin Islands are usually divided into three groups according to their 1992 residence: "In the United States", "On another Caribbean island", and "Elsewhere". The last group "Elsewhere", includes those persons who were residing in a foreign country, Puerto Rico, or another outlying area of the U.S. in 1992, including members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

The number of persons who were living in a different house in 1992 is somewhat less than the total number of moves during the 5-year period. Some persons in the same house at the two dates had moved during the 5-year period but by the time of the survey had returned to their 1992 residence. Other persons who were living in a different house had made one or more intermediate moves. For similar reasons, the number of persons living on a different island may be understated.

Comparability—The 1997 and 1995 survey question reported data similar to that in the 1990 census. Similar questions were also asked in the

1980 and 1990 censuses, but in 1980 previous residence was not allocated for nonresponse. These persons were shown in the category "residence in 1975 not reported". In the 1970 census, the migration questions did not ask for residence in a specific village or island within the area.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND LABOR FORCE STATUS

Tabulation of data on enrollment, educational attainment, and labor force status for the population 16 to 19 years old allows for calculation of the proportion of the age group who are not enrolled in school and not high school graduates or "dropouts" and an unemployment rate for the "dropout" population. Definitions of the three topics and descriptions of the census items from which they were derived are presented in "Educational Attainment", "Employment Status" and "School Enrollment and Type of School". The published tabulations include both the civilian and Armed Forces populations, but labor force status is provided for the civilian population only. Therefore, the component labor force status may not add to the total lines high school graduate, and not high school graduate. The difference is Armed Forces.

Comparability—The tabulation of school enrollment by labor force status in the 1997 and 1995 surveys is similar to that published in 1980 and 1990 census reports. The 1980 census tabulation included a single data line for Armed Forces; however, enrollment, attainment, and labor force status data were shown for the civilian population only. In 1970, a tabulation was included for 16 to 21 year old males not attending school.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND TYPE OF SCHOOL

Data on school enrollment were derived from answers to questionnaire item 12, which was asked of all persons. Persons were classified as enrolled

in school if they reported attending a “regular” public or private school or college at any time between March 1, 1997, and the time of enumeration. The question included instructions to “include only nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which would lead to a high school diploma or a college degree” as regular school.

Enumerators were instructed that enrollment in a trade or business school, company training, or tutoring were not to be included unless the course would be accepted for credit at a regular elementary school, high school, or college. Persons who did not answer the enrollment question were assigned the enrollment status and type of school of a person with the same age, race or Hispanic origin, and, at older ages, sex, whose residence was in the same or a nearby area.

Public and Private School—Includes persons who attended school in the reference period and indicated they were enrolled by marking one of the questionnaire categories for either “public school, public college” or “private school, private college”. A public school is defined as “any school or college controlled and supported by the local or Federal Government”. Schools supported and controlled primarily by religious organizations or other private groups are defined as private. Persons who filled both the “public” and “private” circles are edited to the first entry, “public”.

Level of School In Which Enrolled—Persons who were enrolled in school were classified as enrolled in “preprimary school”, “elementary or high school”, or “college” according to their response to question 13a (years of school completed or highest degree received). Persons who were enrolled and reported completing nursery school or less were classified as enrolled in “preprimary school”, which includes kindergarten. Similarly, enrolled persons who had completed at least kindergarten, but not high school, were classified as enrolled in elementary or high school.

Enrolled persons who reported completing high school or some college or having received a post-secondary degree were classified as enrolled in “college.” Enrolled persons who reported completing the twelfth grade but receiving “NO DIPLOMA” were classified as enrolled in high school. (For more information on level of school, see the discussion under “Educational Attainment”.)

Comparability—The 1997 survey questions on school enrollment and amount of school completed mirrored that of the 1995 survey and 1990 census. School enrollment questions have been included in the decennial census since 1930; grade attended was first asked in 1950; type of school was first asked in 1970. In 1930, the enrollment question referred to attendance since September 1. In 1940, the reference was to attendance in the month preceding the census, and in the 1950 and subsequent censuses, the question referred to attendance in the two months preceding the census date.

In past years, instructions on the types of schools to include have changed. In the 1950 instructions, the term “regular school” was introduced, and it was defined as schooling which “advances a person towards an elementary or high school diploma or a college, university, or professional school degree”. Vocational, trade, or business schools were excluded unless they were graded and considered part of a regular school system. On-the-job training was excluded, as were nursery school and kindergarten. Instruction by correspondence was excluded unless it was given by a regular school and counted towards promotion.

In 1960, the question used the term “regular school or college” and a similar, though expanded, definition of “regular” was included in the instructions, which continued to exclude nursery school, but included kindergarten. In the 1970 census, the questionnaire used the phrase “regular school or college” and included instructions to “count nursery school, kindergarten, and

schooling which leads to an elementary school certificate, high school diploma, or college degree”.

The age range for which enrollment data have been obtained and published has varied over the censuses. Information on enrollment was recorded for persons 5 to 24 years old in 1940; for persons 5 to 29 years old in 1950 for persons age 5 to 34 in 1960; and for those 3 years old and over since 1970. Most of the published enrollment figures referred to persons 5 to 24 in 1940, 5 to 29 in 1950, 5 to 34 in 1960, 3 to 34 in 1970 and 3 years old and over in 1980 and 1990. This growth in the age group whose enrollment was reported reflects increased interest in the number of children in preprimary schools and in the number of older persons attending colleges and universities.

In the 1950 and subsequent censuses, college students were enumerated where they lived while attending college, whereas in earlier censuses, they generally were enumerated at their parental homes. This change should not affect the comparability of national figures on college enrollment since 1940 however, it may affect the comparability over time of enrollment figures at sub-national levels.

Type of school was first introduced in the 1970 census. The type of school was incorporated into the yes response categories for the enrollment question. The types identified were “public”, “parochial”, and “other private”. In the 1980 census, “private, church related” and “private, not church related” replaced “parochial”, and “other private”. Grade of enrollment was first available in the 1950 census, where it was obtained from responses to the question on highest grade of school completed. Enumerators were instructed that “for a person still in school, the last grade completed will be the grade preceding the one in which he or she was now enrolled”. From 1960 to 1980, grade of enrollment was obtained from

the highest grade attended in the two-part question used to measure educational attainment. (For more information, see the discussion under “Educational Attainment”). The form of the question from which level of enrollment was derived in the 1990 census most closely corresponds to the question used in 1950. While data from prior censuses can be aggregated to provide levels of enrollment comparable to the 1997 and 1995 surveys, and the 1990 census, the surveys and census data cannot be desegregated to show single grade of enrollment as in previous censuses.

Data on school enrollment were also collected and published by other Federal and local government agencies. Where these data were obtained from administrative records of school systems and institutions of higher learning, they were only roughly comparable with data from population censuses and household surveys because of differences in definitions and concepts, subject matter covered, time references, and enumeration methods. At the local level, the difference between the location of the institution and the residence of the student may affect the comparability of census and administrative data. Differences between the boundaries of school districts and census geographic units also may affect these comparisons.

SELF-CARE LIMITATION STATUS

The data on self-care limitation status were derived from answers to questionnaire item 19b, which was asked of all persons. Persons were identified as having a self-care limitation if they had a health condition that had lasted for 6 or more months and which made it difficult to take care of their own personal needs, such as dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home. The term “health condition” referred to both physical and mental conditions. A temporary health problem, such as a broken bone that was expected to heal normally was not considered a health condition.

Comparability—1990 was the first time that a question on self-care limitation was included in the census. The 1995 and 1997 surveys asked the same question.

SEX

The data on sex were derived from answers to questionnaire item 2, which was asked of all persons. For most cases in which sex was not reported, it was determined by the appropriate entry from the person's given name and household relationship. Otherwise, sex was imputed according to the relationship to the householder and the age and marital status of the person. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix B, Accuracy of the Data.)

Sex Ratio—A measure derived by dividing the total number of males by the total number of females and multiplying by 100.

Comparability—A question on the sex of individuals, similar to that asked in the 1997 survey has been asked in the 1995 survey and of the total population in every census.

VETERAN STATUS

Data on veteran status, period of military service, and years of military service were derived from answers to questionnaire item 21, which was asked of all persons 15 years and over.

Veteran Status—The data on veteran status were derived from responses to question 21. For census data products, a “civilian veteran” is a person 16 years old or over who had served (even for a short time) but is not now serving on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served as a Merchant Marine seaman during World War II. Persons who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if

they were ever called or ordered to active duty not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians 16 years old and over are classified as nonveterans.

Limitation of the Data—There may be a tendency for the following kinds of persons to report erroneously that they served on active duty in the Armed Forces: (a) persons who served in the National Guard or military Reserves but were never called to active duty; (b) civilian employees or volunteers for the USO, Red Cross, or the Department of Defense for its predecessor Departments, War and Navy); and (c) employees of the Merchant Marine or Public Health Service.

Comparability—Since census data on veterans were based on self-reported responses, they may differ from data from other sources such as administrative records of the Department of Defense. Census data may also differ from Veterans Administration data on the benefits-eligible population, since factors determining eligibility for veterans' benefits differ from the rules for classifying veterans in the census.

The wording of the question on veteran status for the 1995 survey was limited to whether persons were now on active duty; had been on active duty in the past, but not now; had served in the Reserves or National Guard, or had not been on active duty. This represented only one part of a two-part question in 1990.

In the 1990 census the question was expanded from the veteran/not veteran question in 1980 to include questions on current active duty status and service in the military Reserves and the National Guard. The expansion was intended to clarify the appropriate response for persons in the Armed Forces and for persons who served in the National Guard or military Reserve units only. For the first time in a census, service during World War II as a Merchant Marine Seaman was considered active-duty military service and per-

sons with such service were counted as veterans. An additional period of military service, “September 1980 or later” was added in 1990. As in 1970 and 1980, persons reporting more than one period of service are shown in the most recent wartime period of service category. The question on Years of Military Service was new for 1990.

WORK DISABILITY STATUS

The data on work disability were derived from answers to questionnaire item 20, which was asked of all persons 15 years old and over. Persons were identified as having a work disability if they had a health condition that had lasted for 6 or more months and which limited the kind or amount of work they could do at a job or business. A person was limited in the kind of work he or she could do if the person had a health condition that restricted his or her choice of jobs. A person was limited in the amount of work if he or she was not able to work full-time. Persons with a work disability were further classified as “Prevented from working” or “Not prevented from working”.

The term “health condition” referred to both physical and mental conditions. A temporary health problem, such as a broken bone that was expected to heal normally was not considered a health condition.

Comparability—The wording of the question on work disability for the 1997 survey was the same in the 1995 survey and 1990 and 1980 censuses. Information on work disability was first collected in 1970. In that census, the work disability question did not contain a clause restricting the definition of disability to limitations caused by a health condition that had lasted 6 or more months; however, it did contain a separate question about the duration of the disability.

WORK STATUS IN 1996

The data on work status in 1996 were derived from answers to questionnaire item 30, which was asked of persons 15 years and over. Persons 16 years old and over who worked 1 or more weeks according to the criteria described below are classified as “Worked in 1996”. All other persons 16 years old and over are classified as “Did not work in 1996”. Some tabulations showing work status in 1996 include 15 year olds; these persons, by definition, are classified as “Did not work in 1996”.

Weeks Worked in 1996—The data on weeks worked in 1996 were derived from responses to questionnaire item 30b. Question 30b (Weeks Worked in 1996) was asked of persons 16 years old and over who indicated in question 30a that they worked in 1996.

The data pertain to the number of weeks during 1994 in which a person did any work for pay or profit (including paid vacation and paid sick leave) or worked without pay on a family farm or in a family business. Weeks of active service in the Armed Forces are also included.

Usual Hours Worked Per Week Worked in 1996

The data on usual hours worked per week worked in 1996 were derived from answers to questionnaire item 30c. This question was asked of persons 16 years old and over who indicated that they worked in 1996.

The data pertain to the number of hours a person usually worked during the weeks worked in 1996. The respondent was to report the number of hours worked per week in the majority of the weeks he or she worked in 1996. If the hours worked per week varied considerably during 1996, the respondent was to report an approximate average of the hours worked per week. The statistics on usual hours worked per week in 1996

are not necessarily related to the data on actual hours worked during the census reference week (question 23b). Persons 16 years old and over who reported that they usually worked 35 or more hours each week during the weeks they worked are classified as “Usually worked full time”, persons who reported that they usually worked 1 to 34 hours are classified as “Usually worked part time”.

Year-Round Full-Time Workers—All persons 16 years old and over who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in 1996.

Number of Workers in Family in 1996—The term “worker” as used for these data is defined based on the criteria for Work Status in 1996.

Limitation of the Data—It is probable that the number of persons who worked in 1996 and the number of weeks worked are understated since there was some tendency for respondents to forget intermittent or short periods of employment or to exclude weeks worked without pay. There may also be a tendency for persons not to include weeks of paid vacation among their weeks worked; one result may be that the census figures may understate the number of persons who worked “50 to 52 weeks”.

Comparability—The data on weeks worked collected in the 1997 survey were comparable with data from the 1995 survey and 1980, 1970, and 1960 censuses, but may not be entirely comparable with data from the 1940 and 1950 censuses. Since the 1960 census, two separate questions have been used to obtain this information. The first identified persons with any work experience during the year and, thus, indicated those persons for whom the questions on number of weeks worked applied. In 1940 and 1950, however, the questionnaires contained only a single question on number of weeks worked.

In 1970, persons responded to the question on weeks worked by indicating one of six weeks-worked intervals. In 1997 and 1995 surveys, as well as in 1990 and 1980 censuses, persons were asked to enter the specific number of weeks they worked.

YEAR OF ENTRY

The data on year of entry were derived from answers to questionnaire item 10, which was asked of all persons. The question, “In what month and year did this person come to the U.S. Virgin Islands to stay?” was asked of persons who indicated in the question on citizenship that they were not born in the U.S. Virgin Islands. (For more information, see the discussion under “Citizenship”.)

The 1997 survey questions, tabulations, and census data products about citizenship and year of entry include no reference to immigration. All persons who were born and resided outside the U.S. Virgin Islands before becoming residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands have a date of entry. Some of these persons are U.S. citizens by birth (e.g., persons born in Puerto Rico or born abroad of American parents). To avoid any possible confusion concerning the date of entry of persons who are U.S. citizens by birth, the term, “year of entry” is used in this report instead of the term “year of immigration”.

Limitation of the Data—The census questions on nativity, citizenship, and year of entry were not designed to measure the degree of permanence of residence in the United States. The phrase, “to stay” was used to obtain the year in which the person became a resident of the United States. Although the respondent was directed to indicate the year he or she entered the country “to stay”, it was difficult to ensure that respondents interpreted the phrase correctly.

Comparability—A question on year of entry (alternately called “year of immigration”) was asked in the 1970, 1980 and 1990 censuses. In 1980, the question on year of entry included six arrival time intervals. The number of arrival intervals was expanded to ten in 1990. In 1980, the question on year of entry was asked only of the

foreign-born population. In 1990, all persons not born in the Virgin Islands were to complete the question on year of entry. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys persons gave the month and year of entry into the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as the “country or state of immediate previous residence”.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

LIVING QUARTERS

Living quarters are classified as housing units. Usually living quarters are in structures intended for residential use (for example, a one-family home, apartment house, hotel or motel, boarding house, or mobile home). Living quarters also may be in structures intended for nonresidential use (for example, the rooms in a warehouse where a guard lives), as well as in places such as boats, tents, vans, shelters for the homeless, dormitories.

Housing Units—A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible. If that information cannot be obtained, the criteria are applied to the previous occupants.

Both occupied and vacant housing units are included in the housing unit inventory, except that recreational vehicles, boats, vans, tents and the like are included only if they are occupied as someone's usual place of residence. Vacant mobile homes are included provided they are intended for occupancy on the site where they stand. Vacant mobile homes on dealers' sales lots or in storage yards are excluded from the housing inventory.

If the living quarters contain 9 or more persons unrelated to the householder or person in charge (a total of 10 unrelated persons), they are classified as group quarters. If the living quarters contain eight or fewer persons unrelated to the householder or person in charge, they are classified as housing units.

Occupied Housing Units—A housing unit is classified as occupied if it is the usual place of residence of the person or group of persons living in it at the time of enumeration, or if the occupants are only temporarily absent; that is, away on vacation or business. If all the persons staying in the unit at the time of the census have their usual place of residence elsewhere, the unit is classified as vacant. A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. By definition, the count of occupied housing units for 100-percent tabulations is the same as the count of households or householders.

Vacant Housing Units—A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of enu-

meration, unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. Units temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by persons who have a usual residence elsewhere are also classified as vacant. (For more information, see discussion under "Usual Home Elsewhere.")

New units not yet occupied are classified as vacant housing units if construction has reached a point where all exterior windows and doors are installed and final usable floors are in place. Vacant units are excluded if they are open to the elements; that is, the roof, walls, windows, and/or doors no longer protect the interior from the elements, or if there is positive evidence (such as a sign on the house or in the block) that the unit is condemned or is to be demolished. Also excluded are quarters being used entirely for non-residential purposes, such as a store or an office, or quarters used for the storage of business supplies or inventory, machinery, or agricultural products.

Hotels, motels, Rooming Houses, Etc.—Occupied rooms or suites of rooms in hotels, motels, and similar places are classified as housing units only when occupied by permanent residents; that is, persons who consider the hotel as their usual place of residence or have no usual place of residence elsewhere. Vacant rooms or suites of rooms are classified as housing units only in those hotels, motels, and similar places in which 75 percent or more of the accommodations are occupied by permanent residents.

If any of the occupants in a rooming or boarding house live and eat separately from others in the building and have direct access, their quarters are classified as separate housing units.

Staff Living Quarters—The living quarters occupied by staff personnel within any group quarters are separate housing units if they satisfy

the housing unit criteria of separateness and direct access; otherwise, they are considered group quarters.

Comparability—The first Census of Housing in 1940 established the "dwelling unit" concept. Although the term became "housing unit" and the definition has been modified slightly in succeeding censuses; the 1997 survey definition for housing unit was the same as that used for the 1995 survey and 1990 and 1980 censuses.

AIR CONDITIONING

The data on air conditioning were obtained from questionnaire item H11, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Air conditioning is defined as the cooling of air by a refrigeration unit. It does not include evaporative coolers, fans, or blowers, which are not connected to a refrigeration unit; however, it does include heat pumps. A central system is an installation which air-conditions a number of rooms. In an apartment building, each apartment may have its own central system, or there may be several systems, each providing central air conditioning for a group of apartments. A central system with individual room controls is a 'central air-conditioning system'. A 'room unit' is an individual air conditioner which is installed in a window or an outside wall and is generally intended to cool one room, although it may sometimes be used to cool more than one room.

Comparability—Data on air conditioning were collected for the first time in 1980 and were shown only for year-round housing units. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys as in the 1990 census, data are shown for all housing units.

BEDROOMS

The data on bedrooms were obtained from questionnaire item H9, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. The number of bedrooms is the count of rooms designed to be used as bedrooms; that is, the number of rooms that would be listed as bedrooms if the house or apartment were on the market for sale or for rent. Included are all rooms intended to be used as bedrooms even if they currently are being used for some other purpose. A housing unit consisting of only one room, such as a one-room efficiency apartment is classified, by definition, as having no bedroom.

Comparability—Data on bedrooms have been collected in every census since 1960. In 1970 and 1980, data for bedrooms were shown only for year-round units. In past censuses, a room was defined as a bedroom if it was used mainly for sleeping even if also used for other purposes. Rooms that were designed to be used as bedrooms but used mainly for other purposes were not considered to be bedrooms. A distribution of housing units by number of bedrooms calculated from data collected in a U.S. 1986 U.S. test showed virtually no differences in the two versions except in the two-bedroom category, where the previous “use” definition showed a slightly lower proportion of units. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, respondents were asked to fill in a number for the amount of bedrooms in the housing unit, whereas the 1990 census offered a range of 5 choices from “no bedroom” to 5 or more bedrooms.

BOARDED-UP STATUS

The data on boarded-up status were obtained from questionnaire item C2 and was determined for all vacant units. Boarded-up units have windows and doors covered by wood, metal, or similar materials to protect the interior and to prevent entry into the building. A single-unit structure, a unit in a multi-unit structure, or an entire multi-unit structure may be boarded-up in this way. For

certain census data products, boarded-up units are shown only for units in the 'Other vacant' category.

Comparability—Data on boarded up status were collected for the first time in 1880 and was shown only for year-round vacant housing units. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys and 1990 census, data were shown for all vacant housing units.

CONDOMINIUM FEE

The data on condominium fee were obtained from questionnaire item H20b, which was asked at owner-occupied condominiums. A condominium fee normally is charged monthly to the owners of the individual condominium units by the condominium owners association to cover operating, maintenance, administrative, and improvement costs of the common property (grounds, halls, lobby, parking areas, laundry rooms, swimming pool, etc.) The costs for utilities and/or fuels may be included in the condominium fee if the units do not have separate meters.

Data on condominium fees may include real estate tax and/or insurance payments for the common property, but do not include real estate taxes or fire, hazard, and flood insurance for the individual unit. Amounts reported were the regular monthly payment, even if paid by someone outside the household or remain unpaid. Costs were estimated as closely as possible when exact costs were not known.

The data from this item were added to payments for mortgages (both first and junior mortgages and home equity loans); real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments and utilities and fuels to derive “elected Monthly Owner Costs” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996” for condominium owners.

Comparability—The 1997 and 1995 surveys gathered data similar to the 1990 census when the question was asked for the first time.

CONDOMINIUM STATUS

The data on condominium housing units were obtained from questionnaire item H20a, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Condominium is a type of ownership that enables a person to own an apartment or house in a development of similarly owned units and to hold a common or joint ownership in some or all of the common areas and facilities. Common areas and facilities include land, roof, hallways, entrances, elevators, swimming pool, etc. Condominiums may be single-family houses as well as units in apartment buildings. A condominium unit need not be occupied by the owner to be counted as such. A unit classified as “mobile home or trailer” or “other”, (see discussion under “Units in Structure”) cannot be a condominium unit.

Limitation of the Data—Testing done prior to the 1980 and 1990 censuses indicated that the number of condominiums might be slightly overstated.

Comparability—In 1970, condominiums were grouped together with cooperative housing units, and the data were reported only for owner-occupied cooperatives and condominiums. Beginning in 1980, the census identified all condominium units and the data were shown for renter-occupied and vacant year-round condominiums as well as owner occupied.

CONTRACT RENT

The data on contract rent (also referred to as “rent asked” for vacant units) were obtained from questionnaire item H5a, which was asked at all

occupied housing units that were rented for cash rent and all vacant housing units that were for rent at the time of enumeration.

Housing units that are renter occupied without payment of cash rent are shown separately as “No cash rent” in census data products. The unit may be owned by friends or relatives who live elsewhere and who allow occupancy without charge. Rent-free houses or apartments may be provided to compensate caretakers, ministers, tenant farmers, sharecroppers, or others.

Contract rent is the monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. For vacant units, it is the monthly rent asked for the rental unit at the time of enumeration.

If the contract rent includes rent for a business unit or for living quarters occupied by another household, the respondent was instructed to report that part of the rent estimated to be for his or her unit only. Respondents were asked to report rent for only the housing unit enumerated and to exclude any rent paid for additional units or for business premises.

If a renter pays rent to the owner of a condominium or cooperative, and the condominium fee or cooperative carrying charge is also paid by the renter to the owner, the respondent was instructed to include the fee or carrying charge.

If a renter receives payments from lodgers or roomers who are listed as members of the household, the respondent was instructed to report the rent without deduction for any payments received from the lodgers or roomers. The respondent was instructed to report the rent agreed to or contracted for even if paid by someone else such as friends or relatives living elsewhere, or a church or welfare agency.

In some tabulations, contract rent is presented for all renter-occupied housing units, as well as specified renter-occupied and specified vacant-for-rent units. Specified renter-occupied and specified vacant-for-rent units exclude one-family houses and mobile homes on 10 or more acres. (For more information on rent, see the discussion under “Gross Rent”.)

Median and Quartile Contract Rent—The median divides the rent distribution into two equal parts. Quartiles divide the rent distribution into four equal parts. In computing median and quartile contract rent, units reported as “No cash rent” are excluded. Median and quartile rent calculations are rounded to the nearest whole dollar (For more information on medians and quartiles, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Aggregate Contract Rent—To calculate aggregate contract rent, the amount assigned for the category “less than \$80” is \$50. The amount assigned to the category “\$1,000 or more” is \$1,250. Mean contract rent is rounded to the nearest whole dollar. (For more information on aggregates and means, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Comparability—Data on this item have been collected since 1930. For 1990, quartiles were added because the range of rents and values in the Virgin Islands has increased in recent years. Upper and lower quartiles can be used to note large rent and value differences among various geographic areas.

COOKING FUEL

The data on cooking fuel were obtained from questionnaire item H14, which was asked at all occupied and vacant housing units. The data show the type of fuel used most for cooking.

Electricity—includes electricity obtained from public or private power supply as well as from

individually owned power units.

Bottled or Tank Gas—includes liquid propane gas stored in bottles or tanks which are refilled or exchanged when empty.

Kerosene—includes liquid kerosene stored in bottles or drums.

Other Fuel—Includes all other fuels not specified elsewhere.

No Fuel Used—Includes units that do not use any fuel or that do not have kitchen facilities.

Comparability—Data on cooking fuel were collected for the first time in 1980. The 1997 survey modified previous census questions to include options with gas, electricity and kerosene combinations.

DURATION OF VACANCY

The data for duration of vacancy (also referred to as “months vacant”) were obtained from questionnaire item D, which was completed by census enumerators. The statistics on duration of vacancy refer to the length of time (in months and years) between the date the last occupants moved from the unit and the time of enumeration. The data, therefore, do not provide a direct measure of the total length of time units remain vacant.

For newly constructed units which have never been occupied, the duration of vacancy is counted from the date construction was completed. For recently converted or merged units, the time is reported from the date conversion or merger was completed. Units occupied by an entire household with a usual home elsewhere are assigned to the “Less than 1 month” interval.

Comparability—Similar data were collected in 1980. These data were shown in 1980 only for year-round housing units. In the 1997 and 1995

surveys and 1990 census these data are shown for all housing units.

GROSS RENT

Gross rent is the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water) and fuels (oil, charcoal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid for by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent is intended to eliminate differentials which result from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels as part of the rental payment. Renter units occupied without payment of cash rent are shown separately as “No cash rent” in the tabulations.

Comparability—Data on gross rent have been collected since 1940 for renter-occupied housing units.

GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1996

Gross rent as a percentage of household income in 1996 is a computed ratio of monthly gross rent to monthly household income (total household income in 1996 divided by 12). The ratio was computed separately for each unit and was rounded to the nearest whole percentage. Units for which no cash rent is paid and units occupied by households that reported no income or a net loss in 1996 comprise the category “Not computed.”

INSURANCE FOR FIRE, HAZARD, AND FLOOD

The data on fire, hazard, and flood insurance were obtained from questionnaire item H22, which was asked at owner-occupied one-family houses, condominiums, and mobile homes. The statistics for this item refer to the annual premium for fire,

hazard, and flood insurance on the property (land and buildings); that is, policies that protect the property and its contents against loss due to damage by fire, lightning, winds, hail, flood, explosion, and so on.

Liability policies are included only if they are paid with the fire, hazard, and flood insurance premiums and the amounts for fire, hazard, and flood cannot be separated. Premiums are included even if paid by someone outside the household or remain unpaid. When premiums are paid on other than a yearly basis, the premiums are converted to a yearly basis.

The payment for fire, hazard, and flood insurance is added to payments for real estate taxes, utilities, fuels, and mortgages (both first and junior mortgages and home equity loans) to derive “Selected Monthly Owner Costs” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996”.

A separate question (H23d) determines whether insurance premiums are included in the mortgage payment to the lender(s). This makes it possible to avoid counting these premiums twice in the computations.

Comparability—Data on payment for fire and hazard insurance were collected for the first time in 1980. Flood insurance was not specifically mentioned in the wording of the question in 1980. The question was asked only at owner-occupied one-family houses. Excluded were mobile homes, condominiums, houses with a business or medical office on the property, houses on 10 or more acres, and housing units in multi-unit buildings. In 1990, the question was asked of all one-family owner-occupied houses, including houses on 10 or more acres. It also was asked at mobile homes, condominiums, and one-family houses with a business or medical office on the

property. The 1995 and 1997 survey question followed pattern used in the 1990 census.

MOBILE HOME OR BOAT COSTS

The data on mobile home/boat costs were obtained from questionnaire item H4, which was asked at owner-occupied homes, apartments, mobile homes and boats.

These data include the total yearly costs for personal property taxes, land or site rent, marina fees or ship rent, registration fees, and license fees on all owner-occupied mobile homes and boats. Costs are estimated as closely as possible when exact costs are not known. Amounts are the total for an entire 12-month billing period, even if they are paid by someone outside the household or remain unpaid.

The data from this item are added to payments for mortgages, real estate taxes, fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments, utilities, and fuels to derive selected monthly owner costs for mobile home and boat occupants.

Comparability—This item was first introduced in the 1990 census and was mirrored in the 1995 and 1997 survey questionnaire item.

MORTGAGE PAYMENT

The data on mortgage payment were obtained from questionnaire item H23a, which was asked at owner occupied one-family houses, condominiums, boats, and mobile homes. Question H23b provides the regular monthly amount required to be paid the lender for the first mortgage (deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt) on the property. Amounts are included even if the payments are delinquent or paid by someone else. The amounts reported are included in the computation of “Selected Monthly Owner Costs” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a

Percentage of Household Income in 1996”, for units with a mortgage.

The amounts reported include everything paid to the lender including principal and interest payments, real estate taxes, fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments, and mortgage insurance premiums. Separate questions determine whether real estate taxes and fire, hazard, and flood insurance payments are included in the mortgage payment to the lender. This makes it possible to avoid counting these components twice in the computation of “Selected Monthly Owner Costs”.

Comparability—Information on mortgage payment was collected for the first time in 1980. It was collected only at owner-occupied one-family houses. Excluded were mobile homes, condominiums, houses with a business or medical office on the property, one-family houses on 10 or more acres, and housing units in multi-unit buildings. In 1990, the questions on monthly mortgage payments were asked of all owner-occupied one-family houses, including one-family houses on 10 or more acres. They were also asked at mobile homes, condominiums, boats, and one-family houses with a business or medical office.

The 1980 census obtained total regular monthly mortgage payments, including payments on second or junior mortgages, from a single question. As in the 1990 census, two questions were used in 1995 and 1997 surveys; one for regular monthly payments on first mortgages, and one for regular monthly payments on second or junior mortgages or home equity loans. (For more information, see the discussion under “Second or Junior Mortgage Payment”.)

MORTGAGE STATUS

The data on mortgage status were obtained from questionnaire items H23a and H24a, which were asked at owner-occupied one-family houses, condominiums, boats, and mobile homes. “Mort-

gage” refers to all forms of debt where the property is pledged as security for repayment of the debt. It includes such debt instruments as deeds of trust, trust deeds, contracts to purchase, land contracts, junior mortgages and home equity loans.

A mortgage is considered a first mortgage if it has prior claim over any other mortgage or if it is the only mortgage on the property. All other mortgages, (second, third, etc.) are considered junior mortgages. A home equity loan is generally a junior mortgage. If no first mortgage is reported, but a junior mortgage or home equity loan is reported, then the loan is considered a first mortgage.

In most census data products, the tabulations for “Selected Monthly Owner Costs” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996” usually are shown separately for units “with a mortgage” and for units “not mortgaged”. The category “not mortgaged” is comprised of housing units owned free and clear of debt.

Comparability—The item was asked for the first time in 1980. In 1980, the mortgage status questions were asked at owner-occupied one-family houses on less than 3 acres. Excluded were mobile homes, boats, condominiums, houses with a business or medical office, houses on 3 or more acres, and housing units in multi-unit buildings. In the 1990 census and 1995 and 1997 surveys, the questions were asked of all one-family owner-occupied housing units, including houses on 10 or more acres. They were also asked at mobile homes, boats, condominiums, and houses with a business or medical office.

PERSONS IN UNIT

This item is based on the 100-percent count of persons in occupied housing units. All persons

occupying the housing unit are counted, including the householder, occupants related to the householder, and lodgers, roomers, boarders, and so forth. The data on “persons in unit” show the number of housing units occupied by the specified number of persons. The phrase “persons in unit” is used for housing tabulations, “persons in households” for population items. Figures for “persons in unit” match those for “persons in household”.

Median Persons in Unit—In computing median persons in unit, a whole number is used as the midpoint of an interval; thus, a unit with 4 persons is treated as an interval ranging from 3.5 to 4.5 persons. Median persons is rounded to the nearest hundredth. (For more information on medians, see the discussion under “Derived Measures”.)

Persons in Occupied Housing Units—This is the total population minus those persons living in group quarters. “Persons per occupied housing unit” is computed by dividing the population living in housing units by the number of occupied housing units.

PERSONS PER ROOM

“Persons per room” is obtained by dividing the number of persons in each occupied housing unit by the number of rooms in the unit. Persons per room is rounded to the nearest hundredth. The figures shown refer, therefore, to the number of occupied housing units having the specified ratio of persons per room.

Mean Persons Per Room—This computed by dividing persons in housing units by the aggregate number of rooms. This is intended to provide a measure of utilization. A higher mean may indicate a greater degree of utilization or crowding; a low mean may indicate under-utilization. (For

more information on means, see the discussion under “Derived Measures”.)

POVERTY STATUS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN 1996

The data on poverty status of households were derived from answers to the income questions. Households are classified below the poverty level when the total 1996 income of the family or of the nonfamily householder is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The income of persons living in the household who are unrelated to the householder is not considered when determining the poverty status of a household, nor does their presence affect the household size in determining the appropriate poverty threshold. The poverty thresholds vary depending upon three criteria: size of family, number of children, and age of the family householder or unrelated individual for one and two-persons households. (For more information, see the discussion of “Poverty Status in 1996” and “income in 1996” under Population Characteristics.)

REAL ESTATE TAXES

The data on real estate taxes were obtained from questionnaire item H21 which was asked at owner-occupied one-family houses, condominiums, and mobile homes. The statistics from this question refer to the total amount of all real estate taxes on the entire property (land and buildings) payable in 1995 to all taxing jurisdictions, including special assessments, school taxes, county taxes, and so forth.

Real estate taxes include state, local, and all other real-estate taxes even if delinquent, unpaid, or paid by someone who is not a member of the household. However, taxes due from prior years are not included. If taxes are paid on other than a yearly basis, the payments are converted to a yearly basis.

The payment for real estate taxes is added to payments for fire, hazard, and flood insurance; utilities and fuels; and mortgages (both first and junior mortgages and home equity loans) to derive “Selected Monthly Owner Costs” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996”. A separate question (H23c) determines whether real estate taxes are included in the mortgage payment to the lender(s). This makes it possible to avoid counting taxes twice in the computations.

Comparability—Data for real estate taxes were collected for the first time in 1980. The question was asked only at owner-occupied one-family houses. Excluded were mobile homes or trailers, condominiums, houses with a business or medical office on the property, houses on 3 or more acres, and housing units in multi-unit buildings. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys as in the 1990 census, the question was asked of all one-family owner-occupied houses, including houses on 10 or more acres. It also was asked at mobile homes, condominiums, and one-family houses with a business or medical office on the property.

ROOMS

The data on rooms were obtained from questionnaire item H8, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. The statistics on rooms are in terms of the number of housing units with a specified number of rooms. The intent of this question is to count the number of whole rooms used for living purposes.

For each unit, rooms include living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches suitable for year-round use, and lodger's rooms. Excluded are strip or Pullman kitchens, bathrooms, open porches, balconies, halls or foyers, half-rooms, utility rooms, unfinished attics or basements, or other unfinished space used for storage. A partially divided room is a separate room only if there is a partition

from floor to ceiling, but not if the partition consists solely of shelves or cabinets.

Median Rooms—This measure divides the room distribution into two equal parts, one-half of the cases falling below the median number of rooms and one-half above the median. In computing median rooms, the whole number is used as the midpoint of the interval; thus, the category “3 rooms” is treated as an interval ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 rooms. Median rooms is rounded to the nearest tenth. (For more information on medians, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Aggregate Rooms—To calculate aggregate rooms, an arbitrary value of “10” is assigned to rooms for units falling within the terminal category, “9 or more”. (For more information on aggregates and means, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Comparability—Data on rooms have been collected since 1940. In 1970 and 1980, these data were shown only for year-round housing units. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys, as in 1990 census, these data are shown for all housing units.

SECOND OR JUNIOR MORTGAGE PAYMENT

The data on second or junior mortgage payments were obtained from questionnaire items H24a and H24b, which were asked at owner-occupied one-family houses, condominiums, boats, and mobile homes. Question H24a asks whether a second or junior mortgage or a home equity loan exists on the property. Question H24b provides the regular monthly amount required to be paid to the lender on all second or junior mortgages and home equity loans. Amounts are included even if the payments are delinquent or paid by someone else. The amounts reported are included in the computation of “Selected Monthly Owner Costs” and

“Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of House-hold Income in 1996” for units with a mortgage.

All mortgages other than first mortgages are classified as “junior” mortgages. A second mortgage is a junior mortgage that gives the lender a claim against the property that is second to the claim of the holder of the first mortgage. Any other junior mortgage(s) would be subordinate to the second mortgage. A home equity loan is a line of credit available to the borrower that is secured by real estate. It may be placed on a property that already has a first or second mortgage, or it may be placed on a property that is owned free and clear.

If the respondents answered that no first mortgage existed, but a second mortgage did (as in the above case with a home equity loan), a computer edit assigned the unit a first mortgage and made the first mortgage monthly payment the amount reported in the second mortgage. The second mortgage data were then made “No”, in question H24a and blank in question H24b.

Comparability—The 1980 census obtained total regular monthly mortgage payments, including payments on second or junior mortgages, from one single question. Two, questions were used in the 1997 and 1995 surveys as was the case in the 1990 census: one for regular monthly payments on first mortgages, and one for regular monthly payments on second or junior mortgages and home equity loans.

SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS

The data on selected monthly owner costs were obtained from questionnaire item H25 that obtained data on owner-occupied one-family houses, condominiums, boats, and mobile homes. Selected monthly owner costs is the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to

purchase, or similar debts on the property (including payments for the first mortgage, second or junior mortgages, and home equity loans). Also included are real estate taxes, fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities (electricity, gas, and water) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.). Where appropriate, selected monthly owner costs includes the monthly condominium fee for condominiums, and boat and mobile home costs such as personal property taxes, site rent, registration fees, and license fees.

In certain tabulations selected monthly owner costs are presented separately for specified owner-occupied housing units (owner-occupied one-family houses on fewer than 10 acres and without a business or medical office on the property); owner-occupied condominiums, and owner-occupied mobile homes. Data usually are shown separately for units “with a mortgage” and for units “not mortgaged.”

Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs—

This measure is rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Comparability—The components of selected monthly owner costs were collected for the first time in 1980. The 1997 and 1995 survey questions from which tabulations of selected monthly owner costs for specified owner-occupied housing units came are identical to 1990 and 1980 censuses. The primary difference was that amounts of the first and second mortgages were collected in separate questions in 1990, while the amounts were collected in a single question in 1997 and 1995. The component parts of the item were tabulated for boats, mobile homes, and condominiums for the first time in 1990. In the 1980 and 1990 censuses and 1995 survey, costs for electricity and gas were collected as average monthly costs. In separate questions, the 1997 survey added average monthly costs for cable and satellite television service, gas, kerosene, oil coal etc. and water.

SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1996

The information on selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income in 1996 is the computed rate of selected monthly owner costs to monthly household income in 1996. The ratio was computed separately for each unit and rounded to the nearest whole percentage. The data are tabulated separately for specified owner-occupied units, condominiums, boats, and mobile homes.

Separate distributions are often shown for units “with a mortgage” and for units “not mortgaged”. Units occupied by households reporting no income or a net loss in 1996 are included in the “not computed” category. (For more information, see the discussion under “Selected Monthly Owner Costs”.)

Comparability—The components of selected monthly owner costs were collected for the first time in 1980. The tabulations of “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996” for specified owner-occupied housing units are comparable to 1990.

SOURCE OF WATER

The data on source of water were obtained from questionnaire items H13 which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Housing units may receive their water supply from a number of sources. A common source supplying water to five or more units is classified as “a public system only” or “a public system and cistern”. Other sources of water may be “a cistern, tanks, or drums only” in which rain water is collected. “A public standpipe” is an elevated tank or vertical storage cylinder or street hydrant which is connected to a public system from which nearby residents draw water. The category “some other

source such as an individual well or a spring” includes water obtained from creeks, rivers, lakes, etc.

Comparably—Data on source of water have been collected in every census since 1940. In 1970 and 1980, data were shown only for year-round housing units. In the 1995 survey, households were asked whether or not water was purchased from a water vendor from January through December 1994. Households were considered to have purchased water from a water vendor, even if only one purchase was made during the year and even though their primary source of water was from a public system, and public standpipe, or some other source. Bottled water purchased from a commercial establishment such as a grocery store or drugstore was not included.

TELEPHONE IN HOUSING UNIT

The data on telephones were obtained from a two-part questionnaire item H10, which was asked at occupied housing units. A telephone must be inside the house or apartment for the unit to be classified as having a telephone. Units where the respondent uses a telephone located inside the building but not in the respondent's living quarters are classified as having no telephone. The second part of the question obtained data on the cost of telephone service.

Comparability—The 1997 and 1995 survey question was comparable to that asked for the first time in the 1990 census. The 1997 survey asked an additional question on the average monthly cost of telephone.

TENURE

The data for tenure were obtained from questionnaire item H3, which was asked at all occupied housing units. All occupied housing units are

classified as either owner occupied or renter occupied.

Owner Occupied—A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. The owner or co-owner must live in the unit and usually is the person listed in column 1 of the questionnaire. The unit is “Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan” if it is being purchased with a mortgage or some other debt arrangement such as a deed of trust, trust deed, contract to purchase, land contract, or purchase agreement. The unit is also considered owned with a mortgage if it is built on leased land and there is a mortgage on the unit.

A housing unit is “Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage)” if there is no mortgage or other similar debt on the house, apartment, or mobile home including units built on leased land if the unit is owned outright without a mortgage. Although owner-occupied housing units are divided between mortgaged and owned free and clear on the questionnaire, census data products containing 100-percent data show only total owner-occupied counts. More extensive mortgage information was collected on the long-form questionnaire and is shown in census products containing sample data.

Renter Occupied—All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter occupied. “No cash rent” units are separately identified in the rent tabulations. Such units are generally provided free by friends or relatives or in exchange for services such as a resident manager, caretaker, minister, or tenant farmer. Housing units on military bases also are classified in the “No cash rent” category.

“Rented for cash rent” includes units in continuing care, sometimes called life care arrangements. These arrangements usually involve a contract between one or more individuals and a health services provider guaranteeing the individual shelter, usually a house or apartment, and services, such as meals or transportation to shopping or recreation.

Comparability—Data on tenure have been collected for the Virgin Islands since 1930. In 1970, the question on tenure also included a category for condominium and cooperative ownership. In 1980, condominium units and cooperatives were dropped from the tenure item, and since 1980, only condominium units are identified in a separate question.

Since 1990, the response categories were expanded to allow the respondent to report whether the unit was owned with a mortgage or free and clear (without a mortgage). Research after the 1980 census indicated some respondents did not consider their units owned if they had a mortgage. The distinction between units owned with a mortgage and units owned free and clear was added in 1990 to improve the count of owner-occupied units; the 1995 and 1997 surveys continued this pattern.

UNITS IN STRUCTURE

The data on units in structure (also referred to as “type of structure”) were obtained from questionnaire item H2, which was asked at all housing units. A structure is a separate building that either has open spaces on all sides or is separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof. In determining the number of units in a structure, all housing units, both occupied and vacant, are counted. Stores or office space are excluded.

The statistics are presented for the number of housing units in structures of specified type and size, not for the number of residential buildings.

1-Unit, Detached—This is a 1-unit structure detached from any other structure; that is, with open space on all four sides. Such structures are considered detached even if they have an adjoining shed or garage. A one-family house which contains a business is considered detached as long as the building has open space on all four sides. Mobile homes or trailers to which one or more permanent rooms have been added or built are also included.

1-Unit, Attached—This is a 1-unit structure which has one or more walls extending from ground to roof separating it from adjoining structures. In row houses (sometimes called townhouses), double houses, or houses attached to non-residential structures, each house is a separate, attached structure if the dividing or common wall goes from ground to roof.

2 or More Units—These are units in structures containing 2 or more housing units, further categorized as units in structures with 2, 3 or 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 19, and 20 or more units.

Boat or Houseboat—Included in this category are boats and houseboats that are occupied as housing units.

Mobile Home or Trailer—Both occupied and vacant mobile homes to which no permanent rooms have been added are counted in this category. Mobile homes or trailers used only for business purposes or for extra sleeping space and mobile homes or trailers for sale on a dealer's lot, or in storage are not counted in the housing inventory.

Other—This category is for any living quarters occupied as a housing unit that does not fit the previous categories. Examples that fit this cate-

gory are abandoned cars, tents, campers, and vans.

Comparability—Data on units in structure have been collected for the Virgin Islands since 1940, on mobile homes and trailers since 1950, and on boats since 1980. In 1970 and 1980, these data were shown only for year-round housing units. Since 1990, these data were shown for all housing units. The category, “Tent, van, etc.” was replaced in 1990 by the category, “Other”. The 1995 and 1997 surveys continued the 1990 census questionnaire pattern.

USUAL HOME ELSEWHERE

The data for usual home elsewhere were obtained from questionnaire item E, which was completed by census employees. A housing unit temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by persons with a usual residence elsewhere is classified as vacant. The occupants are classified as having a “Usual home elsewhere” and are counted at the address of their usual place of residence. Typical examples are people in a vacation home and persons renting living quarters temporarily for work.

Limitation of the Data—Evidence from previous censuses suggests that in some areas enumerators marked units as “vacant-usual home elsewhere” when they should have marked “vacant-regular”.

Comparability—Data for usual home elsewhere were tabulated for the first time in the 1980 census.

UTILITIES

The data on utility costs were obtained from questionnaire items H16 through H19, which were asked at all occupied housing units. Ques-

tions H16 through H19 asked for the monthly cost of utilities (electricity, cable or satellite television service, gas, water) and other fuels (oil, coal, wood, kerosene, etc.). The average monthly costs are included in the computation of “Gross Rent”, “Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996”, “Selected Monthly Owner Costs” and “Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1996”.

Costs are recorded if paid by or billed to occupants, a welfare agency, relatives, or friends. Costs that are paid by landlords, included in the rent payment, or included in condominium or cooperative fees are excluded.

Limitation of the Data—Research has shown that respondents tended to overstate their expenses for electricity and gas when compared to utility company records.

Comparability—Data on utilities were collected for the first time in the 1980 census. Data on costs of cable or television service and kerosene were added for the first time in the 1997 survey.

VACANCY STATUS

The data on vacancy status were obtained from questionnaire item C1, which was completed by census enumerators. Vacancy status and other characteristics of vacant units were determined by enumerators obtaining information from landlords, owners, neighbors, rental agents, and others. Vacant units are subdivided according to their housing market classification as follows:

For Rent—These are vacant units offered “for rent” and vacant units offered either “for rent or for sale”.

For Sale Only—These are vacant units being offered “for sale only” including units in co-

operatives and condominium projects if the individual units are offered “for sale only”.

Rented or Sold, Not Occupied—If any money rent has been paid or agreed upon but the new renter has not moved in as of the date of enumeration, or if the unit has recently been sold but the new owner has not yet moved in, the vacant unit is classified as “rented or sold, not occupied.”

For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use—These are vacant units used or intended for use only in certain seasons or for weekend or other occasional use through out the year. Seasonal units include those used for summer or winter sports or recreation, such as beach cottages and hunting cabins. Seasonal units may also include quarters for such workers as herders and loggers. Interval ownership units, sometimes called shared ownership or time-sharing condominiums, also are included here.

Other Vacant—If a vacant unit does not fall into any of the classifications specified above, it is classified as “other vacant”. For example, this category includes units held for occupancy by a caretaker or janitor, and units held for personal reasons of the owner.

Homeowner Vacancy Rate—This is the percentage relationship between the number of vacant units for sale and the total homeowner inventory. It is computed by dividing the number of vacant units for sale only by the sum of the owner-occupied units and the number of vacant units that are for sale only.

Rental Vacancy Rate—This is the percentage relationship of the number of vacant units for rent to the total rental inventory. It is computed by dividing the number of vacant units for rent by the sum of the renter-occupied units and the number of vacant units for rent.

Comparability—Data on vacancy status have been collected since the 1940 census. For 1990, the category, “seasonal / recreational / occasional use” combined vacant units classified in 1980 as “seasonal” and “held for occasional use”. Also, in 1970 and 1980, housing characteristics were generally presented only for year-round units. In the 1997 and 1995 surveys as in 1990 census, housing characteristics are shown for all housing units.

VALUE

The data on value (also referred to as “price asked” for vacant units) were obtained from questionnaire item H4, which was asked at housing units that were owned, being bought, or vacant for sale at the time of enumeration. Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale. If the house or mobile home is owned or being bought, but the land on which it sits is not, the respondent was asked to estimate the combined value of the house or mobile home and the land. For vacant units value is the price asked for the property.

Value is tabulated separately for all owner-occupied and vacant-for-sale-only housing units, owner-occupied and vacant-for-sale mobile homes or trailers, and specified owner-occupied and specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units. Specified owner-occupied and specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units include only one-family houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property. The data for “specified” units exclude mobile homes, houses with a business or medical office. houses on 10 or more acres, and housing units in mullet-unit buildings.

Median and Quartile Value—The median divides the value distribution into two equal parts. Quartiles divide the value distribution into four

equal parts. These measures are rounded to the nearest hundred dollars. (For more information on medians and quartiles, see the discussion under “Derived Measures”.)

Aggregate Value—To calculate aggregate value, the amount assigned for the category “Less than \$10,000” is \$9,000. The amount assigned to the category “\$500,000 or more” is \$600,000. Mean value is rounded to the nearest hundred dollars. (For more information on aggregates and means, see the discussion under “Derived Measures”.)

Comparability—In 1980, value was asked only at owner-occupied or vacant-for-sale one-family houses on less than 3 acres with no business or medical office on the property and at all owner-occupied or vacant-for-sale condominium housing units. Mobile homes were excluded. Value data were presented for specified owner-occupied housing units, specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units, and owner-occupied condominium housing units.

In 1990, the question was asked at all owner-occupied or vacant-for-sale-only housing units with no exclusions. Data presented for specified owner-occupied and specified vacant-for-sale-only housing units will include one-family condominium houses.

For 1990, quartiles have been added because the range of values and rents in the Virgin Islands has increased in recent years. Upper and lower quartiles can be used to note large value and rent differences among various geographic areas.

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

The data on vehicles available were obtained from questionnaire item H16, which was asked at occupied housing units. These data show the

number of households with a specified number of passenger cars, vans, and pickup or panel trucks of one-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. Vehicles rented or leased for one month or more, company vehicles, and police and government vehicles are included if kept at home and used for nonbusiness purposes. Dismantled or immobile vehicles are excluded. Vehicles kept at home but used only for business purposes also are excluded.

Vehicles Per Household—This is computed by dividing aggregate vehicles available by the number of occupied housing units.

Comparability—Data on automobiles available were collected for the first time in the 1980 census.

YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED INTO UNIT

The data on year householder moved into unit were obtained from questionnaire item H6, which was asked at occupied housing units. These data refer to the year of the latest move by the householder. If a householder moved back into a housing unit he or she previously occupied, the year of the latest move was reported. If the householder moved from one apartment to another within the same building, the year the householder moved into the present apartment was reported. The intent is to establish the year the present occupancy by the householder began. The year that the householder moved in is not necessarily the same year other members of the household moved, although in the great majority of cases an entire household moves at the same time.

Comparability—In 1960 and 1970, this question was asked of every person and included in population reports. This item in housing tabula-

tions refers to the year the householder moved in. In 1997 and 1995 the question was asked only of the householder, as was done in 1980 and 1990.

YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

The data on year structure built were obtained from questionnaire item H7 that was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Data on year structure built refer to when the building was first constructed, not when it was remodeled, added to, or converted. For housing units under construction that met the housing unit definition—that is all exterior windows, doors, and final usable floors were in place, the category “1997 or February 1996” was used. For a houseboat or a mobile home or trailer the manufacturer's model year was assumed to be the year built. The figures shown in census data products relate to the number of units built during the specified periods that were still in existence at the time of enumeration.

Median Year Structure Built—The median divides the distribution into two equal parts. The median is rounded to the nearest calendar year. Median age of housing can be obtained by subtracting median year structure built from 1997. For example, if the median year structure built is 1957, the median age of housing in that area is 40 years (1997 minus 1957).

Limitation of the Data—Data on year structure built are more susceptible to errors of response and nonreporting than data on many other items because respondents must rely on their memory or on estimates by persons who have lived in the neighborhood a long time. Available evidence indicates there is underreporting in the older-year-structure-built categories, especially “Built in 1939 or earlier”. The introduction of the “Don't know” category (see the discussion on “Comparability”) may have resulted in relatively higher allocation rates. Data users should refer to the discussion in Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data, and to the allocation tables.

Comparability—Data on year structure built were collected for the first time in the 1940 census. Since then, the response categories have been modified to accommodate the 10-year period between each census. In 1990, the category, “Don't Know”, was added, and was used in 1995 and 1997 the effect is to minimize the response error mentioned in the paragraph above on limitation of the data.

DERIVED MEASURES

Census data products include various derived measures, such as medians, means, and percentages, as well as certain rates and ratios. Derived measures that round to less than 0.1 are not shown but indicated as zero. In printed reports, zero is indicated by a dash (-).

Interpolation

Interpolation frequently is used in calculating medians or quartiles based on interval data and in approximating standard errors from tables. Linear interpolation is used to estimate values of a function between two known values. “Pareto interpolation” is an alternative to linear interpolation. It is used by the Census Bureau in calculating median income within intervals wider than \$2,500. In Pareto interpolation, the median is derived by interpolating between the logarithms of the upper and lower income limits of the median category

Mean

This measure represents an arithmetic average of a set of values. It is derived by dividing the sum of a group of numerical items (or aggregate) by the total number of items. Aggregates are used in computing mean values. For example, mean family income is obtained by dividing the aggregate of all income reported by persons in families by (Additional information on the total number of

families. Means and aggregates are included in the separate explanations of many population and housing subjects.)

Median

This measure represents the middle value in a distribution. The median divides the total frequency into two equal parts: one-half of the cases fall below the median and one-half of the cases exceed the median. The median is computed on the basis of the distribution as tabulated, which is sometimes more detailed than the distribution shown in specific census publications and other data products.

In reports, if the median falls within the upper interval of the tabulation distribution, the median is shown as the initial value of the interval followed by a plus sign (+); if within the lower interval, the median is shown as the upper value of the category followed by a minus sign (-). For summary tape files, if the median falls within the upper or lower interval, it is set to a specified value. (Additional information on medians is included in the separate explanations of many population and housing subjects.)

Percentages, Rates, and Ratios

These measures are frequently presented in census products to compare two numbers or two sets of measurements. These comparisons are made in two ways: (1) subtraction, which provides an absolute measure of the difference between two items, and (2) the quotient of two numbers, which provides a relative measure of difference.

Quartile

This measure divides a distribution into four equal parts. The first quartile (or lower quartile) is the value that defines the upper limit of the lowest one-quarter of the cases. The second quartile is the median. The third quartile (or upper quartile) defines the lower limit of the upper one-quarter of the cases in the distribution. The difference between the upper and lower quartiles is called the inter-quartile range. This range is less affected by wide variations than is the mean. Quartiles are presented for certain financial characteristics such as housing value and rent.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT HOME

The data on people who have left the Virgin Islands was obtained from questionnaire item H1c that was asked of the householder. The respondent was asked to give the number of persons from the household who had left the Virgin Islands in the past year.

Limitation of Data—Although the questionnaire item obtained data on the territory's emigration, a number of factors should be considered when looking at the data on emigration. Firstly, the definition used by one householder as his or her "household unit" may not have been consistent for other householders. Secondly, when entire families left the Virgin Islands, it was possible that no one was left to report such emigration; other more distant family members may not have regarded those emigrants as part of their household unit, leaving sections of emigrants underrepresented or unrepresented. Thirdly, even in instances where persons were part of a householder's housing unit, mistakes or memory lapses in recounting individuals and times were possible especially when the emigration took place a long time before.

Comparability—An item seeking to gather data on emigration figures for the Virgin Islands was never asked in previous censuses and was asked for the first time in the 1995 survey. Whereas the 1997 survey questionnaire item sought emigration data over one year, the 1995 survey item covered data over a five year period.

In 1995 the householder was asked to give the name, sex, age, current activity, educational attainment, and occupation of each person in your household who was away from the Virgin Islands at the time of the survey.

A “current activity” category allowed householders to choose from: schooling, military, working, retired and other. Categories for educational attainment and occupation were duplicated from the standard questionnaire items in the population (see Industry, Occupation and Class of Worker—Appendix A above).

The householder was requested to give the year each emigrant left and the reason for leaving the Virgin Islands. Reason for leaving was chosen from the same categories as for “current activity”. The last time, (year) each emigrant left the Virgin Islands and the amount of “time away” since the “last” departure were requested.