

glossary & notes

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY: A mandatory, ongoing statistical survey by the US Census Bureau that samples a small percentage of the population in the United States every year rather than the whole population. Data from the American Community Survey portrays demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics in 1-, 3-, and 5-year estimates.

ANNEXATION: The process by which a city adds land to its jurisdiction.

ANNUAL RATE: Year-over-year change, expressed as a percentage.

DEMOGRAPHICS: Statistical data about the characteristics of a population, such as age, gender and income.

DROPOUT RATE: The number of students in a particular grade span dropping out in one year, divided by a measure of the total students in that particular grade, whereas dropout is defined as “any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of studies without transferring to another elementary or secondary school.”

EARNINGS: The sum of wage or salary income and net income from self-employment. Represents the amount of income received regularly for people 16 years old and over before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: Responses for those 18 years old and over are classified according to the highest degree or the highest level of school completed.

ETHNICITY: The US Census Bureau collects ethnicity data based on self-identification and in accordance with guidelines provided by the US Office of Management and Budget.

FAMILY: (US Census Bureau) A householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in tabulations.

HISPANIC/LATINO: The federal government considers race and Hispanic/Latino origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics may be of any race, so are included in applicable race categories. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial categories. Hispanic/Latino may include those who classified themselves on the 2010 Census as: Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, or Cuban, as well as those who indicate that they are other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

HOUSEHOLD: (US Census Bureau) All persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. Not all households contain families since a household may be comprised of a group of unrelated people or of one person living alone – these are called nonfamily households.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE: The number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN: Respondents 5 years of age and older were asked if they sometimes or always spoke a language other than English at home and if so, what language.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: Household income consists of total money income received in the prior calendar year by all household members 15 years old and over, tabulated for all households. Median household income figures are derived from the entire distribution of household incomes in a specified geography.

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MILLENNIAL: A term used to identify the generation born between 1980 to 1999, according to Pew Research Center. While the precise years of birth for this generation have been argued, the generation is aptly named as it is the first generation to come of age in the new millennium.

NON-WHITE POPULATION: (US Census Bureau) Asian, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Some other race, and 2 or more races.

NON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: An economic time series that is not statistically adjusted to eliminate seasonal fluctuations such as weather, holidays, and the opening and closing of schools.

PLACE OF BIRTH, NATIVITY: Information on place of birth and citizenship status is used to classify the population into two major categories: native and foreign born.

POVERTY: The US Census Bureau "uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty."

RACE: The US Census Bureau collects racial data based on self-identification and in accordance with guidelines provided by the US Office of Management and Budget.

STATE DATA CENTER: The State Data Center is a consortium of agencies in North Carolina cooperating with the US Census Bureau to provide the public with data about the state and its component geographic areas.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: The number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force.