

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
ON IMMIGRATION AND THE FOREIGN-BORN

in every six persons in the United States and included the short form questions as well as other questions covering a variety of demographic, social, economic and housing topics. The long form data provided a wealth of information on the characteristics of the foreign-born in the United States, including place of birth, United States citizenship status, year of entry into the United States, residence five years ago, language spoken at home, race, ethnicity and ancestry.

A number of important changes have been implemented for the 2010 census round. The census will include only one form sent to the entire United States population and will ask questions similar to those on the 2000 census short form. However, detailed demographic, social, economic and housing data will no longer be collected as part of the decennial census, and there will be no questions that can be used to identify the foreign-born population included on the 2010 form. Instead, the ACS will provide data that are comparable to the decennial long-form sample data. The ACS is a household survey conducted by the Census Bureau that is designed to meet the needs of federal Government agencies. Most of the questions that were asked on the 2000 census long form are included on the ACS questionnaire. Key migration-related items included in the ACS data include place of birth, United States citizenship status, year of naturalization, year of entry into the United States, residence one year ago, language spoken at home, race, ethnicity and ancestry.^{2, 3, 4}

F. 2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY CONTENT TEST

In preparation for introducing changes to the content of the 2013 ACS, the Census Bureau is conducting the 2010 ACS content test. The primary objectives of the ACS content test are to test whether changes to question wording, response categories and redefinition of underlying constructs improve the quality of th

G. CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY 2008 MIGRATION SUPPLEMENT

The Immigration Statistics Staff developed a migration supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) monthly questionnaire fielded by the Census Bureau in August 2008. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labour Statistics and is the primary source of information on labour force characteristics of the United States population. The migration supplement covered five topics: (a) citizenship; (b) year of entry; (c) residence one year ago; (d) residents and emigrants abroad, and (e) remittances. It included questions on: (a) changes in citizenship status; (b) when people came to and left the United States; (c) time outside the United States; (d) where people lived one year previously; (e) whether or not anyone who had lived in the household in the previous 12 months had moved outside the United States; (f) basic demographic information on those who did move outside the United States, and (g) whether or not households gave or received money from friends and family living abroad. Currently, Census Bureau staff are reviewing the data from the migration supplement and completing related technical documentation. The 2008 migration supplement public use micro-data file is scheduled for release in 2010 and will be available on the Census Bureau's website.

H. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 national projections for the United States were released on 14 August 2008. The national projections are of the resident population and demographic components of change, including births, deaths and net international migration. The data are available by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for each year from 1 July 2000 to 1 July 2050. The projections are based on Census 2000 and were produced using a cohort-component method.

The 2009 national projections, which supplement the 2008 national projections, provide results for differing assumptions of international migration. Given the fluctuations in international migration over the past century and the changing economic climate since 2000, it is plausible that patterns of international migration could increase, decrease, or remain stable over the coming decades. The 2009 national projections provide new projection series that modify the series released in 2008 by incorporating four alternative net international migration assumptions: (a) high net international migration; (b) low net international migration; (c) constant net international migration, and (d) zero net international migration. Except where noted for international migration, all other methodology and assumptions, including those for mortality and fertility, are the same as those used in the 2008 national projections.^{5,6}

NOTES

¹ For the website, see <http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.migration.htm> (accessed 5 May 2010).

² For additional information about the American Community Survey, see <http://www.census.gov/acs> (accessed 5 May 2010).

³ To access ACS data, including the "Selected Population Profiles" for over 100 foreign-born groups, use the American Fact Finder feature at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (accessed on 5 May 2010).

⁴ The "Compass" products provide additional information researchers need to download and analyze ACS data and are

⁵ For the 2008 and 2009 national projections see, <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/index.html> (accessed 5 May 2010).

⁶ For more information about the methodology used by the Census Bureau to produce the projections, see: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/methodstatement.html> (accessed 5 May 2010).