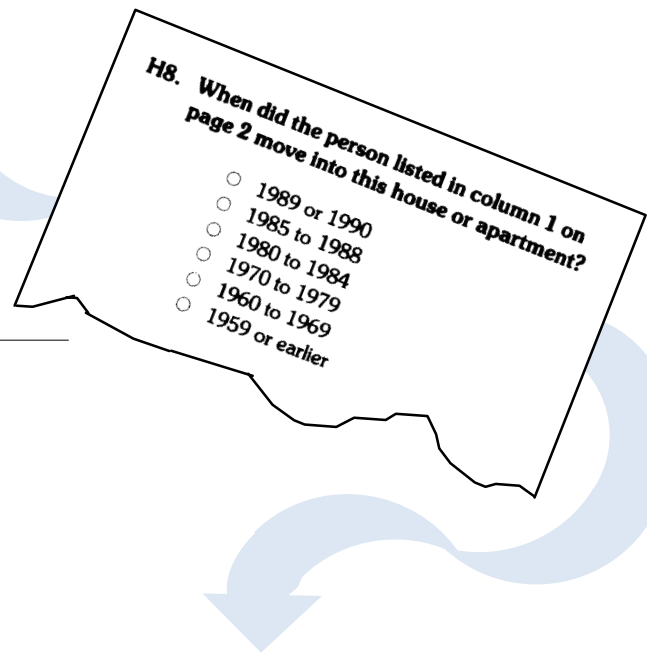


# We asked... You told us

## Year Moved In and Year Structure Built



The Census Bureau conducts a census of population and housing every 10 years. This bulletin is one of a series that shows the questions asked in the 1990 census and the answers that you, the American people, gave. Each bulletin focuses on a question or group of questions appearing on the 1990 census questionnaires.

### Year Moved In

In question **H8** on the 1990 census forms, we asked people to tell us when the person listed in column 1 on page 2 of the questionnaire (the person who owned or rented the house or apartment) moved into the unit. The pie chart shows what you told us in replying to this question.

#### About Half of the Nation Moved Recently

- Twenty-one percent of the Nation's 92 million households<sup>1</sup> in 1990 changed residences during the 15 months before the census.
- In addition, a substantial percentage of households (28 percent) moved into their homes between 1985 and 1988. Thus, roughly half of the Nation's households in 1990 had lived in their homes for 5 years or fewer.
- Even so, approximately a tenth (9 percent) of all households had lived in the same residence for more than 30 years.

#### Mobility Patterns Varied by Region

- As the bar chart shows, the West had the largest percentage of households (70 percent) that changed residences during the 1980's. By contrast, the Northeast had the lowest percentage (only 56 percent).
- In addition, only 6 percent of households in the West had lived in the same home for more than 30 years, compared with 13 percent of the households in the Northeast.
- The high mobility rates in the West can be explained, in part, by the substantial population growth of this region, the heavy migration within the region, and the large percentage of renters, who tend to be highly mobile (as discussed in the next section).

#### Who Were More Likely to Move? Owners or Renters?

From your answers, we also learned that the length of time persons occupied their housing units was closely linked to whether they owned or rented their homes.

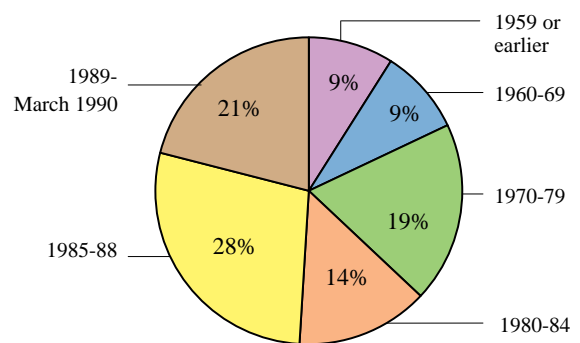
- Renters were more than four times as likely as homeowners to have moved into their residence during the 15 months ending in March 1990. During this period, 42 percent of renters moved, while only 9 percent of homeowners.
- On the other hand, only 4 percent of renters compared with 26 percent of homeowners lived in the same home for more than 20 years.

<sup>1</sup>A household consists of one or more persons (whether or not they are related) who occupy a housing unit.

Note: Data for year moved in and year structure built are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability.

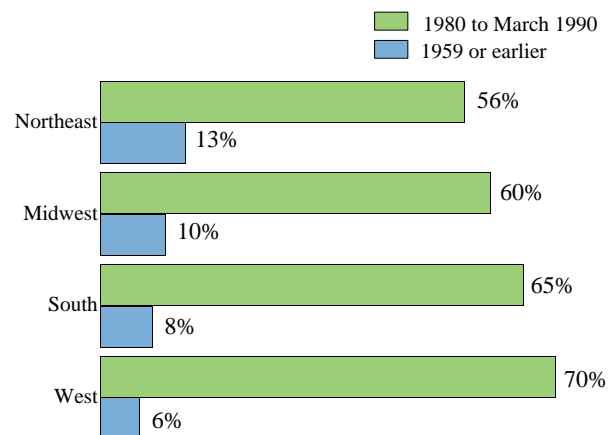
### A Nation on the Move

When Household First Moved Into Unit



### Households in the West Were the Most Mobile

When Household First Moved Into Unit by Region



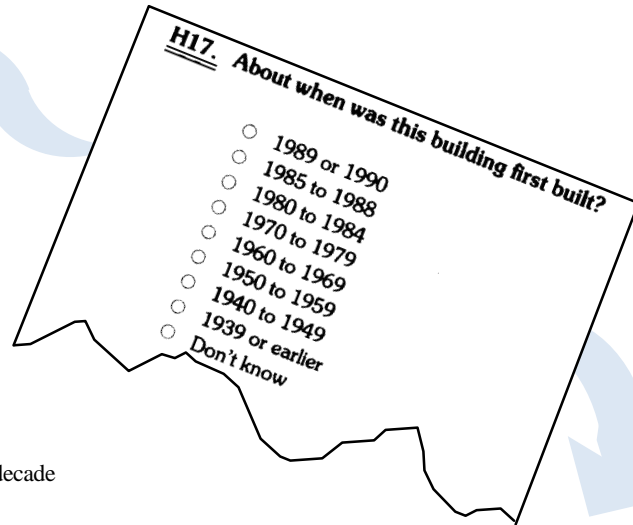
**Census Trivia:** According to the 1990 census, which State had the highest percentage of older housing (homes built before 1940)? (Answer on reverse.)

## Year Structure Built How Old Was the Nation's Housing?

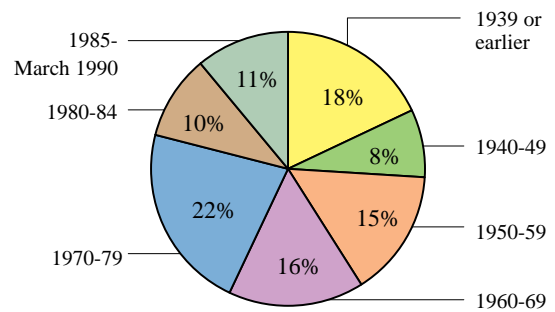
In question **H17**, we asked persons to tell us when the structure in which they lived was first built (not when it was remodeled, added to, or converted). The pie chart shows your answers to this question.

From what **you told us**, we learned that:

- A large portion of the Nation's housing units in 1990 had been in existence for a long time. About two-fifths (41 percent) of all homes were built before 1960. In 1980, 37 percent of homes were more than 30 years old.
- Despite the large proportion of older homes, about a fifth (21 percent) of the Nation's housing units were constructed in the decade before the 1990 census. The proportion built in the decade before the 1980 census was 26 percent.
- Forty-four percent of all housing units in the United States constructed between 1985 and March 1990 were located in the South. The West accounted for 25 percent of all new dwellings; the Midwest, 17 percent; and the Northeast, 14 percent.
- For individual States, the percentage of new homes varied widely as illustrated by the map. In 8 States, new homes made up more than 16 percent of the State's total housing. Nevada had the highest percentage, with 24 percent, followed by Arizona, with 20 percent. On the other hand, in 12 States, the proportion of new homes made up fewer than 8 percent of the total. The lowest percentages were reported in Iowa (4 percent) and Wyoming (5 percent).

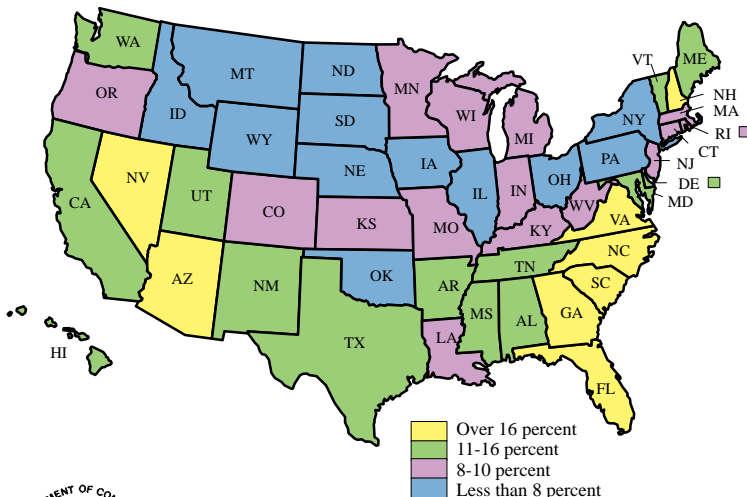


### About 1 in 5 Homes Were Built in the 1980's When Structure Was Built



### Sun Belt States Had Newer Homes

Percent of Housing Units Built Between 1985 and March 1990



### Who Uses This Information? Just a few examples:

#### Year Moved In:

- Moving companies for selecting areas of high mobility to locate their business offices
- Government agencies for assessing the amount of displacement caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters

#### Year Structure Built:

- Local governments for forecasting needs for services such as police and fire protection
- Building developers and contractors for selecting sites for new housing developments

*Trivia Answer:* In 1990, Massachusetts had the highest percentage of homes built before 1940 (39 percent).

### Want to Know More?

Consult the 1990 census report, CH-2, *Detailed Housing Characteristics*, at a large public or university library. Also for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. For ordering information, call Customer Services at the Census Bureau, **301-763-4100**.

For copies of CQC bulletins, call Customer Services. For more information on CQC bulletins, call Kim Giesbrecht or Karen Mills, **301-763-4263**.

For further information on housing data, call the Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, **301-763-8553**.



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