

## **Census 2000 Special EEO Tabulation Technical Documentation for ASCII Files**

### **Appendix 5. Protecting Privacy**

In preparing to publish data from Census 2000, the Census Bureau became extremely concerned that with the emergence of advanced computer technology that decodes information for areas by combining extremely detailed characteristics such as occupations with small geographic units, the possibility of revealing information on individual respondents would be greatly enhanced. To address this problem, in 1995 the Census Bureau created a Disclosure Review Board (DRB) specifically tasked with the responsibility to review specifications for all census data products, and to determine that no product format is approved that contains any degree of disclosure risk.

Previous versions of the Special EEO Tabulation, prepared from the 1980 and 1990 decennial censuses, were used throughout the country by employers and federal agencies to monitor compliance with federal law and regulations prohibiting employment discrimination. These files contained cross-tabulations of over 500 detailed occupational categories by six race/ethnicity groupings, sex, and other characteristics for all states, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), and counties irrespective of population size, and for all places with populations of 50,000 or more.

In 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rescinded Statistical Policy Directive Number 15 (1977), covering the publication and use of data covering race and ethnicity. Based on OMB's Revised Standards (1997), the Special EEO Tabulation presents data for 12 race/ethnicity groups (15 in Hawaii) instead of six, including several dual-race combinations, such as Black/White and Black/Asian, among others.

These expanded race/ethnicity distinctions, combined with the increased ability to electronically match different data files, prompted the DRB to review in detail the potential disclosure risk related to the Special EEO Tabulation format. As a result, the DRB issued two rules in 2000 affecting the Census 2000 Special EEO Tabulation.

1. Any occupational category containing fewer than 10,000 people employed nationwide cannot be shown separately, and must be combined with related occupational categories to create aggregates containing 10,000 or more people.
2. Detailed occupational categories, when cross-tabulated by the 12 race/ethnicity categories (15 in Hawaii), cannot be shown for any geographic area containing fewer than 50,000 people. Geographic areas containing fewer than 50,000 people must be combined in such a way that the resulting aggregation:

- a. Contains 50,000 or more people, **and**
- b. The subtraction of any geographic subset from a larger, combined area does not reveal information for any area containing fewer than 50,000 people.

As a result of the above rules issued by the DRB, the Special EEO Tabulation is configured in the following manner:

1. The number of detailed civilian occupational categories are reduced from the 509 in the Census 2000 classification system to 472/471 categories.
2. For Files 1 and 2, containing cross-tabulations of detailed occupational categories (472 in File 1 and 268 in File 2) by the 12 race/ethnicity categories (15 in Hawaii), approximately 70 percent of all U.S. counties are combined to create combinations of counties (referred to as County Sets) containing no fewer than 50,000 people.
3. A further constraint is added to ensure compliance with Rule 2(b), above. That is, no County Set combination is permitted to cross state lines. Otherwise, the risk referenced in Rule 2(b) is unacceptably high that, by subtraction of particular counties across a state boundary, individual respondent information could be revealed.

As further protection, the DRB required that the following additional disclosure avoidance steps be taken with the Special EEO Tabulation:

1. All cells in the Census 2000 Special EEO Tabulation are rounded. The rounding schematic is:
  - 0 remains 0
  - 1-7 rounds to 4
  - 8 or greater rounds to nearest multiple of 5 (i.e., 864 rounds to 865, 982 rounds to 980)
  - Any number that already ends in 5 or 0 stays as is.

Any totals or subtotals are constructed before rounding. This assures that universes remain the same from dataset to dataset, and it is recognized that cells in a dataset will no longer be additive after rounding.

2. If geographic codes are shown, they are Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes rather than census codes.
3. For Worksite/Residence datasets, no flow is shown from a residence county or residence place unless there are 50 or more unweighted cases for all occupations in that county or place. If there are less than 50 unweighted cases, all cases go into the U.S. Balance flow category. All occupations in the U.S. Balance flow category are shown separately.

4. For Worksite/Residence datasets, no flow is shown from a residence county or worksite for a specific occupation unless there are 3 or more unweighted cases for that occupation in that county or place. If there are less than 3 unweighted cases for a specific occupation, the cases for that occupation go into the U.S. Balance flow category. All occupations in the U.S. Balance flow category are shown separately.
5. Seven metropolitan areas (MSAs and PMSAs) are not included in Files 1 and 2 because to identify them in conjunction with identifying County Sets would result in showing data for an area of under 50,000 population. The seven areas are –

Arizona: Flagstaff AZ-UT MSA - FIPS MSA Code #2620  
Arkansas: Fort Smith AR-OK MSA - FIPS MSA Code #2720  
Maryland: Baltimore MD PMSA - FIPS PMSA Code #0720  
New York: Newburgh NY-PA PMSA - FIPS PMSA Code #5660  
North Dakota: Grand Forks ND-MN MSA - FIPS MSA Code 2985  
Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh PA MSA - FIPS MSA Code #6280  
Wisconsin: La Crosse WI-MN MSA - FIPS MSA Code #3870

However, all metropolitan areas (MSAs and PMSAs) are shown in Files 3, 4, 5, and 7.

6. Sixty places with populations of 50,000 or more are not shown in Files 14 through 19 because showing them in conjunction with data for the county they are in would result in the identification of a balance of the county that is under 50,000 population. However, all places of 50,000 or more are shown in Files 3 through 6. The sixty places not shown are –

Alabama:

Dothan city  
Montgomery city

Arkansas:

Fort Smith city  
Jonesboro city  
Pine Bluff city

Colorado:

Pueblo city

Florida

Jacksonville city

Georgia:

Albany city  
Athens-Clarke County (balance)  
Augusta-Richmond County (balance)  
Columbus city (balance)

Idaho:

Idaho Falls city  
Pocatello city

Illinois:

Decatur city  
Indiana:  
Terre Haute city  
Iowa:  
Ames city  
Council Bluffs city  
Dubuque city  
Iowa City city  
Sioux City city  
Kansas:  
Kansas City city  
Lawrence city  
Topeka city  
Kentucky:  
Owensboro city  
Louisiana:  
Bossier City city  
Minnesota:  
Rochester city  
Missouri:  
Kansas City city  
St. Joseph city  
Montana:  
Billings city  
Great Falls city  
Missoula city  
Nebraska:  
Lincoln city  
New Mexico:  
Rio Rancho city  
North Carolina:  
Durham city  
Rocky Mount city  
North Dakota:  
Bismarck city  
Fargo city  
Oklahoma:  
Lawton city  
Oregon:  
Gresham city  
Salem city  
South Dakota:  
Rapid City city  
Sioux Falls city  
Tennessee:  
Clarksville city

Jackson city  
Nashville-Davidson (balance)  
Texas:  
Abilene city  
Amarillo city  
Bryon city  
Corpus Christi city  
Laredo city  
Longview city  
Lubbock city  
Midland city  
Odessa city  
San Angelo city  
Victoria city  
Wichita Falls city  
West Virginia:  
Huntington city  
Wisconsin:  
Eau Claire city  
Wyoming:  
Cheyenne city

7. Thirty-four places with populations of 100,000 or more are not shown in Files 21 through 24 because showing them in conjunction with data for the county they are in would result in the identification of a balance of the county that is under 100,000 population. The thirty-four places not shown are-

Alabama:  
Montgomery city  
Colorado:  
Pueblo city  
Florida:  
Jacksonville city  
Tallahassee city  
Georgia:  
Athens-Clarke County (balance)  
Augusta-Richmond County (balance)  
Columbus city (balance)  
Illinois:  
Peoria city  
Springfield city  
Indiana:  
Evansville city  
Indianapolis city (balance)  
Iowa:  
Cedar Rapids city

Kansas:

Kansas City city

Topeka city

Louisiana:

Lafayette city

Shreveport city

Michigan:

Lansing city

Mississippi:

Jackson city

Missouri:

Independence city

Kansas City city

Springfield city

Nebraska:

Lincoln city

Omaha city

North Carolina:

Durham city

South Dakota:

Sioux Falls city

Tennessee:

Clarksville city

Nashville-Davidsonville (balance)

Texas:

Abilene city

Amarillo city

Corpus Christi city

Laredo city

Lubbock city

Waco city

Wichita Falls city