Date of Census Enumeration:

The 1790 census was begun on 2 August 1790. The marshals were expected to finish the census within nine months of the Census Day—by 1 May 1791. Although most of the returns were in long before the deadline, Congress had to extend the count until 1 March 1792. By that time some people probably were counted who had not been born or present in 1790.

The 1800 census was begun on 4 August 1800. The count was to be completed within nine months.

The 1810 census was begun on 6 August 1810. The count was due within nine months, but the due date was extended by law to ten months.

The 1820 census was begun on 7 August 1820. The count was due within six months but was extended by law to allow completion within thirteen months.

The 1830 census was begun on 1 June 1830. The enumeration was to be completed within six months but was extended to allow completion within twelve months.

The 1840 census was begun on 1 June 1840. The enumeration was to be completed within nine months but was extended to eighteen months.

The 1850 census was begun on 1 June 1850. The enumeration was to be completed within five months.

The 1860 census was begun on 1 June 1860. The enumeration was to be completed within five months.

The 1870 census was begun on 1 June 1870. The enumeration was to be completed within five months.

The 1880 census was begun on 1 June 1880. The enumeration was to be completed within thirty days, or two weeks for communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

The 1900 census was begun on 1 June 1900. The enumeration was to be completed within thirty days, or two weeks for communities with populations of more than ten thousand.

The 1910 census was begun on 15 April 1910. The enumeration was to be completed within thirty days, or two weeks for communities with populations of more than five thousand

The 1920 census was begun on 1 January 1920. The enumeration was to be completed within thirty days, or two weeks for communities with populations of more than 2,500.

The 1930 census began on 2 April 1930 for the general population of the United States. (The enumeration in Alaska began on 1 October 1929.) Regardless of when an individual was contacted, all responses were to reflect the status of the individual as of 1 April 1930.

The 1940 census was taken in April 1940 (official date April 1, though entries were recorded throughout early April).