

2020 Census Transitory Location Definitions and Code List

Transitory Location (TL)

A location where people are unlikely to live year round because of the transitory/temporary/impermanent nature of the location. Transitory locations include places such as campgrounds, recreational vehicle (RV) parks, marinas, hotels, motels, racetracks, circuses, or carnivals. Generally, people living or staying at a transitory location either pay fees to stay there, or they work there temporarily.

At each transitory location, there are multiple transitory units (TUs). A transitory unit can be a room in a lodging facility, or it can be a space (such as a site, slip, or pad) where a tent, boat, RV or other structure may be parked or located. If there is at least one person for which a transitory unit serves as a usual residence, then that transitory unit is tabulated as an occupied housing unit.¹ If no one is staying at a transitory unit, then that transitory unit is considered to be unoccupied, but it is not tabulated as a vacant housing unit (i.e., unoccupied transitory units are not tabulated as any type of living quarters). Similarly, if a transitory unit is occupied, but all people who are staying there report a usual home elsewhere (UHE), then that transitory unit is not tabulated as a housing unit. Any person who reports a usual home elsewhere should be counted at that UHE.

Transitory locations are not considered to be group quarters because each occupied transitory unit containing at least one person without a UHE is tabulated as a separate housing unit. A group quarters is a place where people live or stay in a group living arrangement, which is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. A service-based group quarters is a place where people experiencing homelessness receive shelter or services.² See “2020 Census Group Quarters Definitions and Code List” for more details regarding group quarters.

¹ For the purposes of the decennial census tabulations, there are no transitory units; the only types of living quarters are housing units and group quarters.

² Places where people are living or staying in groups of cars, vans, trucks, or RVs, or in tent encampments, are considered to be group quarters (GQ Type Code 706: Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations), and not transitory locations, if they do not pay to stay at the location where their vehicle is parked or tent is located.

TL Type Codes and Definitions

Some transitory locations may be multipurpose and may contain various transitory units that align with multiple type codes (e.g., some locations that contain campgrounds may also contain RV parks, marinas and/or hotel/motel lodging facilities). If the majority of units in a transitory location fall within one type code, then that type code should be applied to the entire transitory location. If the majority of units in a transitory location do not fall within one type code, then a pre determined hierarchy is used to assign a type code to the entire transitory location (i.e., assign the lowest applicable type code value from this list of type codes).

10 = Campground	A specific area set aside primarily for people to camp (e.g., in a tent, cabin, or camping trailer). Campgrounds often charge a fee and sometimes provide minimal amenities. This category includes both public campgrounds (e.g., in national/state/local parks or recreation areas) and private campgrounds (e.g., KOA campgrounds, religious campgrounds, hunting camps, or self-improvement camps). ³
20 = Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park	A specific area set aside primarily for people to temporarily park and occupy recreational vehicles (also referred to as travel trailers or camping trailers). RV parks typically use short-term (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly) rental agreements to provide spaces (with or without basic utility hook-ups) for people to park their RV. RVs are often on wheels while people live or stay in them; they are not permanent structures because they could be easily driven or towed away on any given day. ⁴ This category includes both public and private RV park facilities. ⁵
30 = Marina	A dock or basin where small vessels (commercial or private), such as boats or yachts, can be securely moored or parked, in which some people may use the vessels as their primary residence. Marinas may offer supplies, repairs, and other services/amenities. Marinas may be stand-alone entities or components of a resort, and they may be owned and operated by public entities (e.g., municipal facilities) or by a private club (e.g., yacht club) or company.

³ Campgrounds may contain some number of semi permanent or permanent structures that look more like standard housing units (e.g., for owners/staff to live in, for long-term rentals, or for upscale camping/cabins). In such cases, all units within the transitory location are enumerated as transitory units.

⁴ Mobile home parks, which are not classified as transitory locations, may have designated areas for RVs. Mobile home parks (also referred to as trailer parks) typically use long-term leases to provide a pad on which a semi-permanent home can be placed. People live in trailer homes, mobile homes, or manufactured homes on these pads. These structures are hooked up to utilities associated with the pad, and they may have a covering around the foundation or may be elevated off the ground (i.e., placed on blocks). Semi permanent homes usually do not stay on wheels while people live in them; they are usually placed in one location, and are not expected to be moved. If they are moved, they require large tractor-trailers or semi trucks and special permits to be transported.

⁵ RV parks may contain some number of semi permanent or permanent structures that look more like standard housing units (e.g., for owners/staff to live in, for long-term rentals, or for upscale camping/cabins). In such cases, all units within the transitory location are enumerated as transitory units.

<p>40 = Hotel or Motel</p>	<p>A lodging facility that some people may use as long-term or permanent housing.⁶ Lodging facilities include hotels, motels, hostels, single-room occupancy units, inns, resorts, lodges, and bed and breakfasts. The types of units within these lodging facilities could be single rooms, suites, cabins, cabanas, cottages, or bungalows. In addition, organizations such as the YMCA and YWCA may offer lodging, along with other services, at their facilities.</p>
<p>50 = Racetrack</p>	<p>A facility used for racing automobiles, motorcycles, horses, or dogs where traveling workers may reside in temporary quarters on site, such as tents, buses, or recreational vehicles.⁷ This category includes both commercial and private racetrack facilities.</p>
<p>60 = Circus or Carnival</p>	<p>A traveling show or amusement enterprise (e.g., a circus, carnival, or fair), where the performers and workers may reside in temporary quarters on site, such as tents, buses, or recreational vehicles.</p>
<p>90 = Other Transitory Location</p>	<p>Any other transitory location that is not included in the specific categories (10-60) listed above, where some of the people staying there do not have a usual home elsewhere.</p>

⁶ Lodging facilities are considered transitory locations if some units may be occupied by people who have no usual home elsewhere. However, if lodging facilities are used only to shelter people experiencing homelessness, then they are considered to be group quarters (GQ type code 701: Emergency and Transitional Shelters for People Experiencing Homelessness). In addition, a block of rooms may be set aside for college or university students. That block of rooms is considered to be a group quarters (GQ type code 501: College/University Student Housing) if the college or university considers it part of their student housing.

⁷ Employees of the racetrack who stay in more permanent workers quarters on site would be included in the group quarters enumeration (GQ type code 901: Workers' Group Living Quarters and Job Corps Centers).