

4 Statistics: Tables, Graphs, Charts – Answer Key

Text: Jacob August Riis, “The Crazy Quilt,” from: Peter Freese, *New York, Viewfinder Topics* (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), pp. 20-23.

B TASKS

- Look at the table “Recent Census Figures for New York City” (p. 23). How big is the difference in the figures for white people between the Census 2000 and the Estimates 2007? What does this mean converted into numbers of people, considering the total population was estimated at 8,308,163?
 - Where is the biggest difference to be found between 2000 and 2007 (please ignore the last line, “persons reporting two or more races”)? How many people does this refer to? - Can you find a German city of about that size?

Answers

- The difference is 0.6 % - which means that the number of white persons living in New York City was estimated to grow by 49,848.
 - The biggest difference was estimated to occur in the Asian American population. The rise by 2.3 % means that approximately 191,000 more people of that group would live in New York City by 2007. This is more or less the size of Kassel, near Frankfurt am Main.
- In the bottom half of the box with census figures, you can see that 47.6 % of New York City inhabitants older than four years do not speak English at home, but a different language.
 - Why is this an important figure?
 - Why did they ask for “persons at age 5+” instead of 4+ or 10+, what do you think?

Answers

a) The fact that almost half of New York City's population speaks a different language than English when they are at home is important in two respects. First of all, it is one more sign of the international mix of this city's inhabitants, and secondly, it shows there is a growing market for information and entertainment media in languages other than English, and possibly a demand for English language classes for people of all ages.

b) The age of 5 and older was probably chosen because children are expected to have acquired a relatively confident command of their first language by the age of five; they will also probably be in kindergarten by that age, where English is spoken.

3. How many per cent of firms are owned by white people? - Comment.

Answer

The percentage of white-owned firms was 57 in 2002. This almost relates to the percentage of whites in the whole population of NYC (ca. 45 %). There is still a certain imbalance, with 12 % more white people owning firms than their percentage of the population, but it is certainly a fairer distribution than in the US as a whole, where "white-owned firms accounted for 83.4 percent of all nonfarm businesses in the United States" in 2007 ("Survey of Business Owners", *Census.gov*, U.S. Census Bureau, 7 June 2011 <http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/get07sof.html?7>, 10 Oct. 2011).

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