

PORTLAND, MAINE: Why An Accurate Census Count Matters!

Hard To Count Block Groups + Federal Grant Dollars Sensitive to Census Count

"HARD TO COUNT" BLOCK GROUPS:

The Census Bureau counts the people every 10 years. The next Census count is 2010. In some areas it is harder to count the people because some people are afraid to provide information to census workers, some census workers are afraid to talk with people in their neighborhoods, and some people live in hard to find locations.

The Census Bureau has provided data to show in which areas people have been hard to count. This data is shown by BLOCK GROUPS within each county. The Census Bureau ranks each Census BLOCK GROUP on a scale from 0 to 128.

The Census Bureau uses 12 factors to set a score for each BLOCK GROUP. The MEAN score for all BLOCK GROUPS in the US is 36.6.

The MEAN is the AVERAGE score for all BLOCK GROUPS in the US.

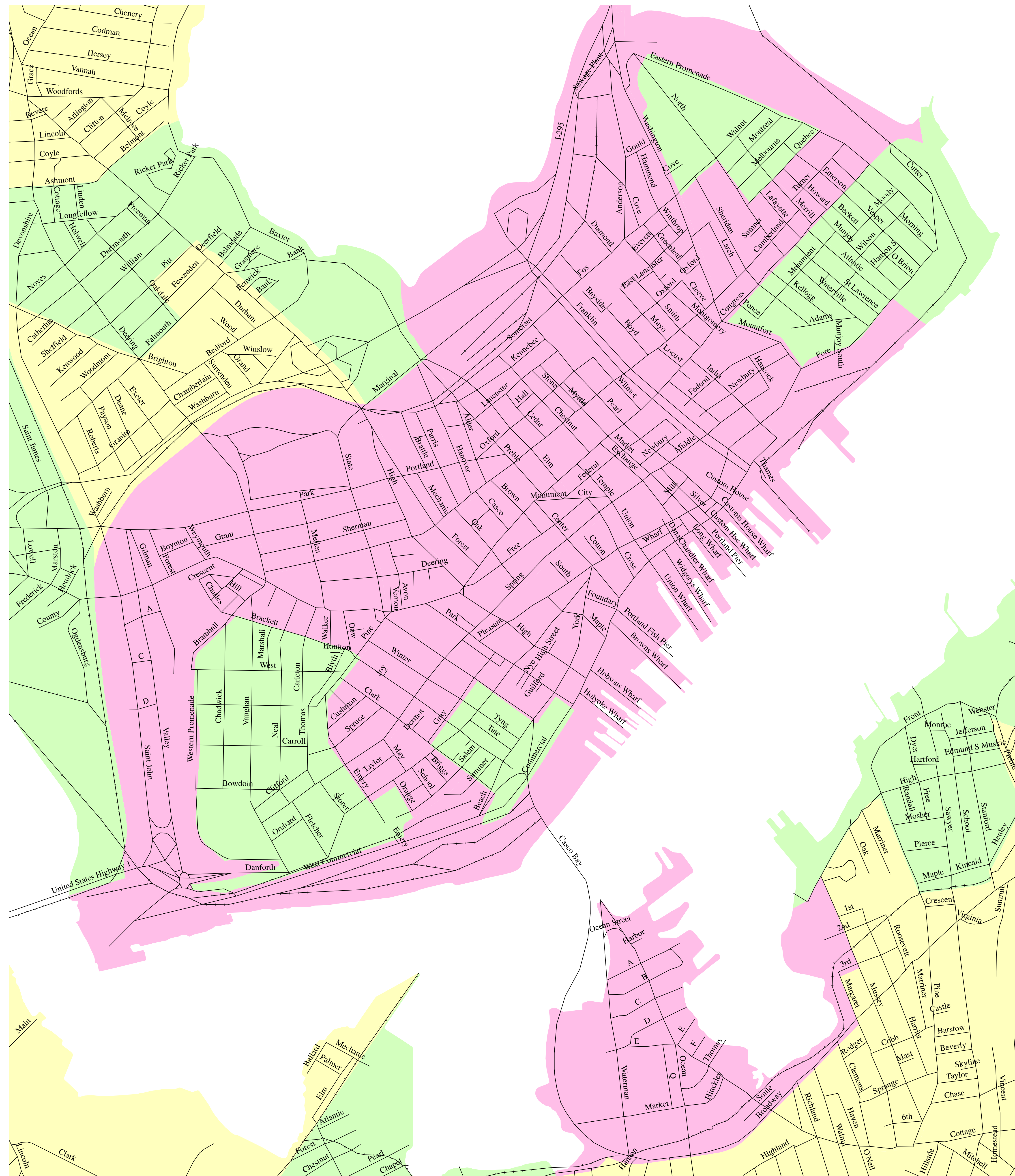
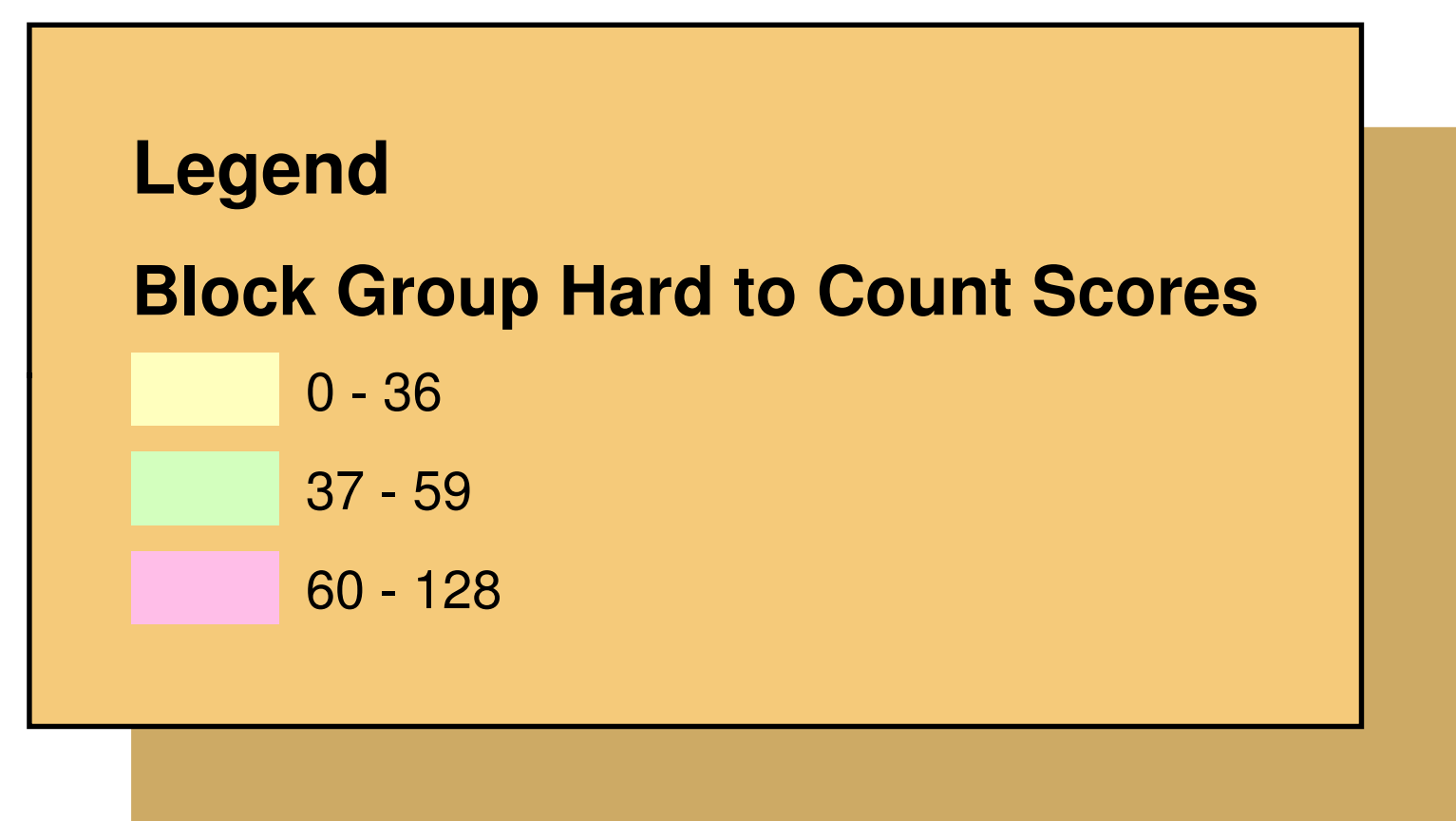
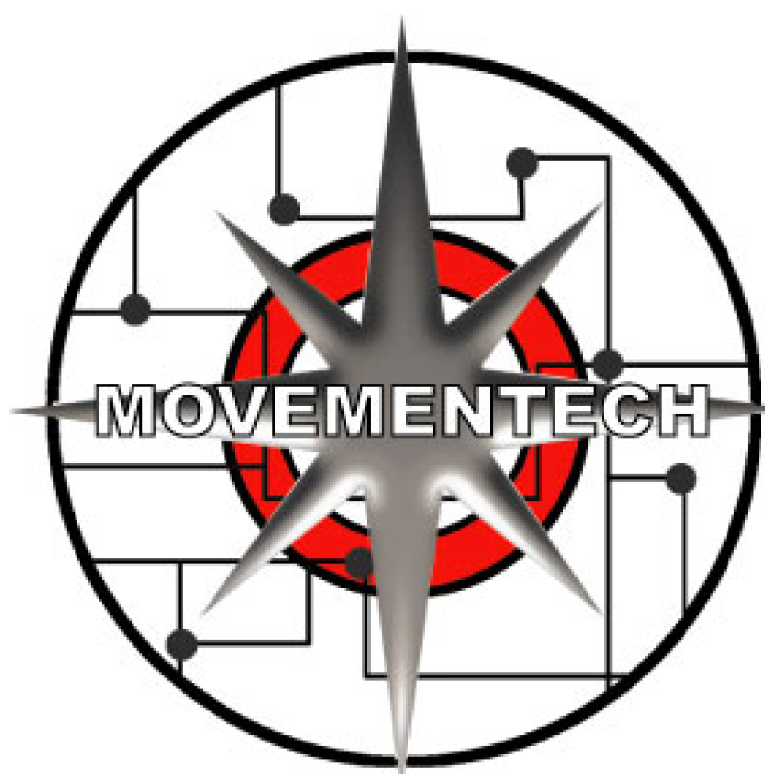
BLOCK GROUPS that score from 37 to 59 are above the average and are HARDER TO COUNT.

The Census Bureau regards all Census BLOCK GROUPS that score from 60 to 128 as the HARDEST TO COUNT: Where people with the greatest risk of an undercount live.

ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL GRANTS:

Every year the US Government provides to states, counties and municipalities grant funds that are allocated on the basis of the census count. These grants are sensitive to the census count. When there is an undercount low-wealth communities of color lose substantial federal funds to which they are entitled. In 2008 all of the counties in the State of MAINE received in federal grants sensitive to the census count a total of \$2.9 billion. In 2008 the CITY OF PORTLAND received in federal grants sensitive to the census count a total of \$32.9 MILLION.

These grants are itemized on the website of the Consolidated Federal Funds Report at: <http://www.census.gov/govs/cffr/>



HOW THIS MAP WORKS:

The map uses 3 color codes to identify the scoring range for each Census BLOCK GROUP.

CREAM color represents the lowest range, below the MEAN, where people are **EASIER TO COUNT**.
GREEN color represents the mid-range, above the MEAN, where people are **HARDER TO COUNT**.
RED color is the highest range above the MEAN and represents the **HARDEST TO COUNT** Block Groups.

Portland's Hard to Count Census Areas are in Downtown Portland and South Portland

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