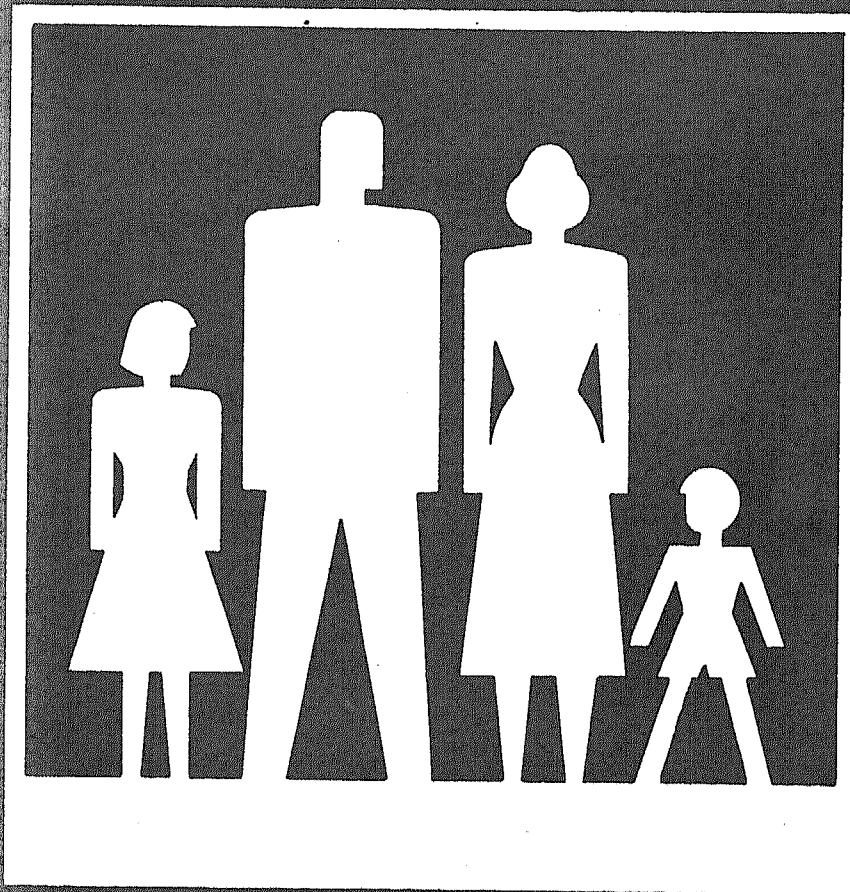


# 1950 UNITED STATES CENSUS OF POPULATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



**EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

# UNITED STATES CENSUS of POPULATION: 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
ROBERT W. BURGESS, *Director*  
(From Feb. 5, 1953)

ROY V. PEEL, *Director*  
(To Feb. 4, 1953)



## SPECIAL REPORTS

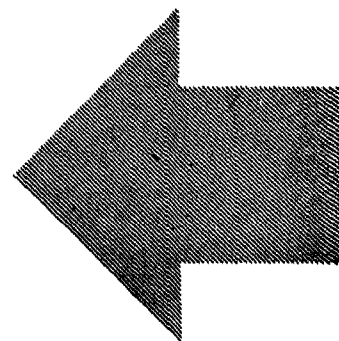
### EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

*Prepared under the supervision of  
Howard G. Brunzman, Chief  
Population and Housing Division*

1950 POPULATION CENSUS REPORT P-ENO. 1A  
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**Employment by**

**AGE · RACE · NATIVITY ·  
EDUCATION · MARITAL STATUS ·  
HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP · ETC.**





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## PREFACE

This report presents detailed statistics on the relationship of employment and personal characteristics for the population of the United States. It provides information on some of the most important factors affecting the size and character of the labor force and of the potential supply of workers in the United States.

The data are based on tabulations of a 3 1/3-percent sample of the returns obtained in the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population of the United States, conducted as of April 1, 1950. Provision for the Seventeenth Decennial Census was made in the act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, approved June 18, 1929. The major portion of the information compiled from the Census of Population of 1950 appears in Volume I, Number of Inhabitants, and in Volume II, Characteristics of the Population. These two volumes contain statistics for regions, divisions, States, and parts of States, as well as for the country as a whole.

This is one of a series of reports (Series P-E bulletins) which comprise Volume IV, Special Reports, and which supplement the information contained in Volumes I and II. The present bulletin is a preprint of Chapter A of Part 1, "Economic Characteristics," of Volume IV.

The materials presented here were prepared under the supervision of Howard G. Brunsman, Chief, Population and Housing Division, and Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Assistant Chief for Population Statistics, with the assistance of Edwin D. Goldfield, Program Coordinator. They were prepared by Gertrude Bancroft, Coordinator for Manpower Statistics, and Max Shor, Chief, Census Labor Force Reports Unit, assisted by Stanley Greene. The compilation of the statistics was under the direction of Robert B. Voight, Assistant Chief for Operations, assisted by Morton A. Meyer, Ruth T. Stanton, and Edward I. Lober. Sampling procedures were under the direction of Joseph Steinberg, Chief, Statistical Sampling Section, assisted by Joseph Waksberg and Albert Mindlin. The technical editorial work and planning were under the supervision of Mildred M. Russell, assisted by Dorothy M. Belzer. The collection of the information on which these statistics were based was under the supervision of Lowell T. Galt, then Chief, Field Division, and the tabulations were under the supervision of C. F. Van Aken, Chief, Machine Tabulation Division.

April 1953.

## U. S. CENSUS OF POPULATION: 1950

### Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants (comprising Series P-A bulletins)
- II Characteristics of the Population (comprising Series P-A, P-B, and P-C bulletins)
- III Census Tract Statistics (comprising Series P-D bulletins)
- IV Special Reports: Employment Characteristics, Occupational and Industrial Characteristics, Characteristics of Families, Marital Status, Institutional Population, Nativity and Parentage, Non-white Population by Race, Persons of Spanish Surname, Puerto Ricans in Continental United States, State of Birth, Mobility of the Population, Characteristics by Size of Place, Education, Fertility.

## U. S. CENSUS OF HOUSING: 1950

### Volume

- I General Characteristics (comprising Series H-A bulletins)
- II Nonfarm Housing Characteristics (comprising Series H-B bulletins)
- III Farm Housing Characteristics
- IV Residential Financing
- V Block Statistics (comprising Series H-E bulletins)  
Housing statistics for census tracts are included in the Population Series P-D bulletins.

# Employment and Personal Characteristics

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# Employment and Personal Characteristics

## GENERAL

This report presents detailed national statistics on the employment status of the population in relation to various personal characteristics, based on a 3 1/3-percent sample of the returns of the Seventeenth Decennial Census of Population.

In addition to detailed statistics on age, data on such personal characteristics as race, nativity, marital status, household relationship, and urban-rural residence are presented in combination with information on employment status. Statistics on the number of weeks in 1949 in which people worked and, for persons employed during the census week, the number of hours worked are also published in this report.

These statistics describe the demographic composition of the labor force and show the extent to which various groups in the population work, both during a calendar week and over the course of a year (1949). The information also provides a basis for analyzing the factors affecting labor force growth. The data on the personal characteristics of persons not in the labor force and on their work experience in 1949 are useful in estimating the size and characteristics of the groups that constituted a reserve of manpower in early 1950.

### RELATED MATERIALS

Volume II, Characteristics of the Population.--The present report supplements the reports for individual States and for the United States and its several regions and divisions, originally published in the Series P-B bulletins, "General Characteristics," and the Series P-C bulletins, "Detailed Characteristics." Those bulletins form the major component of the bound Volume II, Characteristics of the Population. Part 1 of Volume II comprises the data originally published in the United States Summary bulletins; the remainder of the volume is divided into a part for each State, containing the data originally published in the State bulletins.

The tables in the present report provide greater detail, for analytical use at the national level, than do the tables on comparable subjects in Volume II. The Series P-B bulletins contain simple distributions of the population by employment status. In the Series P-C bulletins, limited cross-classifications of employment status with age, marital status, and school enrollment and some information on weeks worked in 1949 and hours worked during the census week, based upon a 20-percent sample of the census returns, are also shown.

Special reports.--This report is one of a series of reports on selected subjects, which comprise Volume IV, Special Reports. Several of these special reports present statistics classifying labor force activity by various characteristics, as described below:

1. Occupational and Industrial Characteristics.--This report contains detailed information on the occupational and industrial attachments of the labor force. Persons in the experienced civilian labor force and, for some tables, employed workers are classified into 446 detailed occupation categories and are further classified by personal and economic characteristics, such as sex, urban-rural residence, age, race, nativity and citizenship, marital status, geographic mobility, years of school completed, hours worked during the census week, class of worker, and weeks worked and income received during 1949. Much of the same information is presented for employed persons classified into 146 detailed industry categories. This report also provides a detailed cross-classification of occupation by industry for employed persons. In addition, data on age, race, hours worked, and weeks worked are shown for persons in the four class-of-worker categories, i. e., private wage and salary workers, government workers, self-employed, and unpaid family workers. Certain of the tables in this report present separate data for nonwhite persons and for wage and salary workers.

2. National Origin and Race.--This part of Volume IV includes four separate reports containing information on the characteristics of various ethnic groups. Each report presents statistics on the employment status of the population and the major occupation group of the employed within the respective groups, classified by sex and broad age categories. These reports are listed below with further description of their content:

a. Nativity and Parentage.--This report pertains only to the white population, classified by nativity, parentage, and country of origin. The statistics are presented for the United States, regions, and selected divisions, classified by urban-rural residence, and for selected standard metropolitan areas.

b. Nonwhite Population by Race.--The statistics indicated above are presented separately for Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and Filipinos for the United States, regions, and selected States, classified by urban and rural residence, and for selected standard metropolitan areas.



c. Persons of Spanish Surname.--In this report, which is limited to statistics for white persons of Spanish surname in selected States in the Southwest, the data on employment status and occupation are further classified by nativity and parentage and are shown by urban-rural residence. In addition, statistics on employment status are presented for selected counties, standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas, and urban places.

d. Puerto Ricans in Continental United States.--The statistics in this report are limited to the continental United States and New York City but are further classified by color and are shown separately for persons born in Puerto Rico and for those born in continental United States of Puerto Rican parentage.

3. Education.--This report relates data on the labor force activity of persons to their educational attainment, as measured by years of school completed. Statistics are presented on the employment status of the population and the major occupation group of employed persons classified by the number of years of school completed, sex, and age. Additional data are included on the labor force status of women classified by marital status, as well as by educational attainment and age. This information is published by color for the United States as a whole and for the South; similar statistics are included for the North and West combined but are distributed by color on a limited basis only.

4. Characteristics by Size of Place.--In this report, the employment status of the people of the United States, classified by sex, color, and broad age group, is related to the size of the community in which they live. The classification by size of place is shown in somewhat greater detail and differs in other respects from the classification in this present report "Employment and Personal Characteristics." For example, persons living in urbanized areas are classified in the present report on the basis of the size of the incorporated place within the urbanized area rather than the size of the area as a whole. In the report "Characteristics by Size of Place," such persons are classified according to the size of the total urbanized area. Information on the major occupation group of employed persons, similarly classified by size of place, sex, color, and age group, are also presented for the United States in the report "Characteristics by Size of Place." In addition, regional statistics on occupation are included in the latter report but without classification by color and age.

In addition to the above, special reports are planned on the mobility of the population and on family characteristics. These reports also present statistics relating labor force activity to other characteristics.

1940 Census reports.--The information presented in this report is generally similar to the statistics published in 1940 in the two following reports: "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)--Employment and Personal Characteristics" and "Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force." The content of the reports for the two censuses differs in some respects. The 1940 reports contained information for regions, as well as for the United States, whereas this present report is limited to statistics for the Nation as a whole. Data on the duration of unemployment were presented in 1940, when the un-

employment problem was more severe, but are omitted here. On the other hand, the present report relates the employment status of the population to the size of the community, whereas the 1940 reports do not. Also, the cross-classifications of employment status with race and nativity and with school enrollment, published in this report, were not included in the two 1940 reports mentioned above. They were shown in less detail, however, in other publications of the 1940 Census of Population. There were also minor differences between this report and the 1940 reports in respect to the categories shown for some subjects and the amount of detail published.

Current Population Reports.--The Bureau of the Census conducts every month the Current Population Survey covering a sample of 25,000 households throughout the country. This survey has been in operation since April 1940 and has provided national estimates of the employment status of the population by age (Current Population Reports, Series P-57, "The Monthly Report on the Labor Force"). Information on the number of hours worked is included in this monthly report series, and once each quarter the distribution of employed workers by major occupation group. Statistics are also published yearly on the annual work experience of the population. In addition, data are collected in the Current Population Survey on the personal characteristics of the labor force, such as marital status, school enrollment, and geographic mobility, and are published annually in the Series P-20 and P-50, Current Population Reports. The intercensal statistics provided by the Current Population Survey are, in general, designed to be comparable with the data for the United States obtained in the decennial population censuses. Discussion of the comparability of the statistics on employment status is presented below on page 1A-7.

#### ACCURACY AND INTERNAL CONSISTENCY OF DATA

In the 1950 Censuses of Population and Housing, sampling procedures were used to supplement the information obtained from the enumeration of the total population. The statistics in the Series P-B bulletins were based on the complete counts of the population except in the case of those characteristics, such as school enrollment and income, that were enumerated for only a 20-percent sample of the population. For the Series P-C bulletins only the tabulations relating to occupation and industry are based on complete counts; all the other tabulations are confined to the 20-percent sample. As indicated earlier, the statistics in the present report were based on a 3 1/3-percent sample of census returns. Accordingly, because of sampling variability and certain small biases, differences may be expected among corresponding figures obtained from the complete count, the 20-percent sample, and the 3 1/3-percent sample. The section on "Reliability of the data" describes the nature of the biases and provided estimates of the differences to be expected because of sampling variability.

Some differences between figures for corresponding items in different reports or in tables within the same report are caused by errors in the tabulation processes. These errors include machine failure, loss of punch cards, and other types. (The net effect is a tendency toward slightly smaller counts of the same item in successive tabulations.) Experience has shown



that in mass operations two tabulations of a set of punch cards are not likely to yield precisely identical results. Therefore, tolerance limits allowing for insignificant variations were established in advance for each tabulation. If the differences between the results of two tabulations fell within these limits, nothing was done to bring them into exact agreement with each other. This procedure was adopted in order to provide a greater volume of data within the limits of time and resources available. In earlier censuses, however, the results of different tabulations were adjusted to bring them into exact agreement.

In addition, time did not permit certain minor adjustments in the tables in this report to eliminate all impossible classifications. For example, a few very young and very old persons were tabulated by mistake in the armed forces category and should have been transferred to the employed group.

#### AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

Some of the data obtained from the tabulations upon which the tables in this report are based have not been published. For example, statistics on single

years of age have been tabulated but are not published for unemployed persons and for the separate categories of persons not in the labor force. Similarly, the statistics on school enrollment are available but are not shown for the various groups of persons not in the labor force. In respect to the cross-classification of employment status with marital status and household relationship and, separately, with weeks worked in 1949--the complete set of tabulated data is published only for the total categories "Labor force" and "Not in labor force," with this information shown in somewhat less detail for the separate employment status groups. In similar fashion, the statistics relating marital status to work experience in 1949 are available for both sexes by detailed employment status, although they are published solely for women and are classified by labor force status only.

Unpublished figures can be obtained upon request, for the cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for such unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., will receive a prompt reply, which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of the pertinent concepts used in the 1950 Census are given below. Several of these definitions differ from those used in 1940. The changes were made after consultation with users of census data in order to improve the statistics, even though it was recognized that comparability would be adversely affected. In many cases, the new definitions were tested in connection with the Current Population Survey; and, where feasible, measures of the impact of the change on the statistics were developed. For a complete discussion of the definitions of concepts used in the 1950 Census, the quality of the data, and the problems of comparability with earlier census data, see Volume II, *Characteristics of the Population*, Part 1, United States Summary, or the Series P-B and Series P-C United States Summary bulletins. The 1950 Population Census schedule and the major part of the instructions to enumerators are reproduced in Volume II, Part 1.

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Identification of persons in the population who constitute the working force of the Nation may be accomplished in a variety of ways, depending on the major objectives of the users of the statistics. Prior to 1940, the decennial censuses provided data on persons with gainful occupations at which they may or may not have been engaged at the time of the census. This information was used chiefly as a description of the occupational composition of the population and as an indicator of economic status. During the decade of the 1930's, interest shifted to the activity of the population, particularly as it related to the problem of unemployment. In the 1940 Census, and subsequently, the Census Bureau has used the concept of the "labor force" in measuring the economically active population. In general, the labor force consists of all persons who, during a specific calendar week, have jobs or are seeking jobs. Persons in the labor force are further identified by their employment status; persons

not in the labor force are divided into major groups according to their type of activity or status.

Numerous factors determine whether or not a person has a job or is seeking work at any given time. Availability of work opportunities and need for income are perhaps paramount. The effectiveness of these incentives will vary, of course, with the characteristics of the individual, only some of which can be measured by a census. The factors of age, race, marital status, family responsibilities, urban-rural residence are examples of characteristics that bear upon the tendency to be part of the labor force. The purpose of this report is to present the available information from the 1950 Census on the relationship between labor force activity and personal characteristics, for the United States as a whole, as a basis for an appraisal of the determinants of labor force growth.

#### Definitions

Census week.--The 1950 data on employment status pertain to the calendar week preceding the enumerator's visit. This week, defined as the "census week," was not the same for all respondents, because not all persons were enumerated during the same week. The majority of the population was enumerated during the first half of April. The 1940 data refer to a fixed week for all persons, March 24 to 30, 1940, regardless of the date of enumeration.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise all civilians 14 years old and over who, during the census week, were either (a) "at work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or in a family business; or (b) "with a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to

return to work within 30 days of layoff. Also included as "with a job" are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days.

Unemployed.--Persons 14 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they were not at work during the census week but were either looking for work or would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their community or in their line of work. Since no specific questions identifying persons in these last three groups were included on the census schedule, it is likely that some persons in these groups were not returned by the census enumerators as unemployed.

Labor force.--The labor force includes all persons classified as employed or unemployed, as described above, and also members of the armed forces (persons on active duty with the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard). The "civilian labor force" consists of the employed and unemployed components of the labor force.

Not in labor force.--Persons not in the labor force comprise all civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed, including persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the census week). Persons not in the labor force are further classified in this report into the following categories:

1. Keeping house.--Persons primarily occupied with their own home housework.

2. Unable to work.--Persons who cannot work because of a long-term physical or mental illness or disability. There is some evidence, however, that some persons were included as "unable to work" who were only temporarily ill or who, although elderly, were not permanently disabled.

3. Inmates of institutions.--Persons, other than staff members and their families, living in institutions, such as homes and schools for the mentally or physically handicapped, places providing specialized medical care, homes for the aged, prisons, and jails. Staff members of institutions and their families are classified into employment status categories on the same basis as are persons living outside of institutions.

4. Other.--Persons not in the labor force other than those keeping house, unable to work, or in institutions. This group includes students, the retired, those too old to work, the voluntarily idle, and seasonal workers for whom the census week fell in an "off" season and who were not reported as unemployed.

5. Not reported.--Persons for whom information on employment status was not reported. Although this group has been separately identified in several of the tables of this report, it has been included in the "not in labor force" total in order to permit the establishment of the dichotomy "labor force" and "not in labor force." It is desirable to have such a dichotomy for those tabulations relating

personal characteristics, income or other items to labor force activity. A similar procedure was followed in the 1940 Census tables. Actually, the number in the "not reported" group is relatively small--only about 1 percent of the total United States population 14 years old and over. Moreover, analysis of the personal characteristics of this group, based on a preliminary and considerably smaller sample of the census returns, suggests that the majority of these persons were probably not members of the labor force.

The distribution of the population of the United States into the employed status categories described above is summarized in table A.

#### Basis for Classification

The employment status classification is based primarily on a series of interrelated "sorter" questions designed to identify, in this sequence: (a) Persons who worked at all during the census week; (b) those who did not work but were looking for work; and (c) those who neither worked nor looked for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent. The four questions used for this purpose are described below:

1. "What was this person doing most of last week--working, keeping house, or something else?" This question was designed to classify persons according to their major activity and to identify the large number of full-time workers. Persons unable to work at all because of physical or mental disabilities were also identified here.

2. "Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house?" This question was asked of all persons except those reported in the previous question as working or as unable to work. It was designed to identify persons working part time or intermittently in addition to their major activity.

3. "Was this person looking for work?" Asked of persons replying in the previous question that they did not work at all, this question served to obtain a count of the unemployed.

4. "Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?" Persons temporarily absent from their job or business were identified by means of this question, which was asked of persons neither working nor looking for work.

#### Problems in Classification

Classification of the population by employment status is always subject to error. Some of the concepts are difficult to apply; but, more important, for certain groups the complete information needed is not always obtained. For example, housewives, students, and semiretired persons, who are in the labor force on only a part-time or intermittent basis, may fail to report that they are employed or looking for work unless carefully questioned. In many cases, enumerators may assume that such persons could not be in the labor force and will omit the necessary questions. As a result, the statistics will understate the size of the labor force and overstate the number

of persons not in the labor force. (See also paragraph below on "Current Population Survey.")

### Comparability

Statistics on gainful workers.--Data on the labor force for 1940 and 1950 are not exactly comparable with statistics for gainful workers published in reports for years prior to 1940 because of differences in definition. "Gainful workers" were persons reported as having a gainful occupation, that is, an occupation in which they earned money or a money equivalent, or in which they assisted in the production of marketable goods, regardless of whether they were working or seeking work at the time of the enumeration. A person was not considered to have had a gainful occupation if his work activity was of limited extent. In contrast, the labor force is defined on the basis of activity during the census week only and includes all persons who were employed, unemployed, or in the armed forces in that week. Certain classes of persons, such as retired workers, some inmates of institutions, recently incapacitated workers, and seasonal workers neither working nor seeking work at the time of the enumeration, were frequently included among gainful workers, but, in general, such persons are not included in the labor force. On the other hand, the 1940 and 1950 Censuses included in the labor force persons seeking work without previous work experience, that is, new workers. Such new workers were probably for the most part not classified as gainful workers in the 1930 and earlier censuses.

1940 Census data.--During the period 1940 to 1950, various changes were developed in the questionnaires and in interviewing techniques, designed to obtain a more nearly complete count of the labor force.<sup>1</sup> Although the changes in questionnaire design were incorporated into the 1950 Census schedule, and interviewing techniques were stressed in training, the quality of the 1950 statistics does not appear to have been much improved relative to that for 1940 by these measures.

The statistics for 1940 presented in this present report were originally published in the 1940 reports "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)--Employment and Personal Characteristics" and "Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force." The 1940 data are based on tabulations of a 5-percent sample of the returns of the 1940 Census of Population. (See section on "Reliability of data" for discussion of the sampling

<sup>1</sup> See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, "Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in the United States, 1940 to 1946," Series P-50, No. 2, September 1947. In this report the 1940 Census figures on the employment status of the population by sex and broad age groups have been revised to make them comparable with figures for subsequent dates. Similar revisions have been made for a few additional categories and have been published from time to time in the Series P-50 reports from the Current Population Survey, showing postcensal trends. It has not been feasible to revise the 1940 data for States and other areas or the detailed statistics for the United States, however. Evidence available at this time suggests that the 1950 Census data on the labor force are for the most part comparable with the unrevised 1940 data.

variability involved in the comparison of 1950 and 1940 statistics.) In order to provide parallel employment status categories for the two years, some of the 1940 figures in table A have been adjusted or combined for inclusion in this present report. The data for employed persons published in the 1940 reports include members of the armed forces, whereas the 1950 "employed" total is limited to civilians. Consequently, the 1940 figure of "employed males" has been adjusted to exclude the estimated 278,000 men in the armed forces at that time. Statistics for persons on public emergency work in 1940 were originally published separately, but they have been combined with those for persons seeking work in the figures on unemployed for 1940. Similarly, persons classified as "In school" in 1940 have been combined with the "Other" group since these two groups are not shown separately for 1950.

Current Population Survey data.--The estimated size of the civilian labor force in the United States based on the Current Population Survey is about 5 percent above the corresponding complete-count figure from the 1950 Census. An investigation of the reason for the discrepancy is being conducted. Examination of the census returns for a sample of households that were also included in the Current Population Survey for April 1950 indicates that although differences of all kinds were found, on balance, the Current Population Survey enumerators, who are much more experienced than were the temporary census enumerators, reported more completely the employment or unemployment of teen-agers and women 25 years old and over. This difference is reflected in higher labor force participation rates and unemployment rates for those groups and a more accurate reporting of persons employed in industries, such as agriculture, trade and personal services, where part-time or occasional work is widely prevalent. These are the groups for whom variability in response is relatively great in labor force surveys. On the other hand, the differences were at a minimum for men and for young women--the major components of the "full-time" labor force. Table B compares the labor force participation rates, i. e., the proportion of the population in the labor force, for broad age groups by sex and color, based on reports for identical persons obtained by census and by Current Population Survey enumerators.

It may be estimated on the basis of this analysis that perhaps 3 percent of the total population 14 years old and over in April 1950 were actually in the labor force but were classified outside the labor force in the census returns. This percentage varies between one population group and another. For example, misclassification was somewhat greater for nonwhite than for white persons, as shown in table B. This reflects in large measure the fact that proportionately more nonwhite workers are unemployed or employed as service workers or laborers, groups that were particularly subject to misclassification in the census.

Other data.--Because the 1950 Census employment data were obtained by household interviews, they differ from statistics based on reports from individual business establishments, farm enterprises, and certain government programs. The data based on household interviews provide information about the work

status of the whole population, without duplication. Persons employed at more than one job are counted only once as employed and are classified according to the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the census week. In statistics based on reports from business and farm establishments, on the other hand, persons who work for more than one establishment may be counted more than once. Moreover, other data, unlike those presented here, generally exclude private household workers, unpaid family workers, and self-employed persons, and may include workers less than 14 years of age. An additional difference arises from the fact that persons with a job but not at work are included with the employed in the statistics shown here, whereas only part of this group is likely to be included in employment figures based on establishment payroll reports.

For a number of reasons, the unemployment figures of the Bureau of the Census are not directly comparable with the published figures for unemployment compensation claims or claims for veterans' readjustment allowances. Certain persons such as private household and government workers are generally not eligible for unemployment compensation. In addition, the qualifications for drawing unemployment compensation differ from the definition of unemployment used by the Census Bureau. For example, persons working only a few hours during the week and persons classified as "with a job but not at work" are sometimes eligible for unemployment compensation but are included by the Census Bureau in the "employed" group.

## FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

### Hours Worked During Census Week

The data on hours worked were derived from answers to the question, "How many hours did he work last week?" asked of persons who reported they had worked during the week prior to their enumeration. The statistics refer to the number of hours actually worked during the census week, and not necessarily to the number usually worked or the scheduled number of hours. For persons working at more than one job, the figures relate to the combined number of hours worked at all jobs during the week.

The data on hours worked presented in this report provide a basis for the classification of employed persons into full-time and part-time workers and for a comparison of their personal characteristics. Part-time workers--i. e., those working fewer than 35 hours during the census week--numbered about one-eighth of the 54 million at work during the census week. They include, in addition to persons who regularly work part-time, persons customarily working full time who did not work part of the week because of personal reasons (illness, vacation, etc.) or economic factors (layoff, job turnover, material shortages, etc.). Although the census enumerators were not asked to differentiate between those two groups, information collected in the Current Population Surveys for both February and May of 1950 indicates that most of the persons working less than 35 hours were housewives, students, or others who did not want or who could not have accepted full-time jobs; regular part-time workers of this kind were largely concentrated in agriculture, trade, and service industries.

In the distribution of employed persons by the number of hours worked, the proportion who worked only a small number of hours is understated because such workers were omitted from the labor force count more frequently than were those working full time. For some types of workers, such as professional workers, proprietors of businesses or farms, and unpaid family workers, the number of hours worked often could not be accurately determined, because such workers frequently do not follow regular schedules of work. In many cases, moreover, the information was not obtained from the worker himself, but from a relative or other member of the household who may not have been able to report accurately the actual number of hours worked.

### Weeks Worked in 1949

The statistics on weeks worked are based on replies to the question, "Last year, in how many weeks did this person do any work at all, not counting work around the house?" asked of a sample of persons 14 years old and over. The data pertain to the number of different weeks during 1949 in which a person did any work for pay or profit (including paid vacations and paid sick leave) or worked without pay on a family farm or in a family business. Weeks of active service in the armed forces are also included.

The information on work experience over the course of a year supplements the data on the employment status of the population during the census week. These statistics indicate the size and composition of the group of year-round workers in contrast to the group whose work activity was seasonal or intermittent. The part-year workers include, in addition to seasonal workers, persons who were unemployed for part of the year, new entrants into the labor force who began to work in 1949, and persons who became disabled, retired, or withdrew from the labor force for other reasons during that year.

The data on work experience in 1949 are pertinent in an analysis of the potential labor supply. The cross-classification of 1949 activity with 1950 employment status provides information on the size and characteristics of the groups not in the 1950 labor force who worked in 1949 and who presumably represented additional sources of available manpower.

It is probable that the number of persons who worked in 1949 is understated in this report, because there is some tendency for respondents to forget intermittent or short periods of employment. For the same reason, the figures represent only an approximate statement of the amount of work in 1949. As in the case of the reports on hours worked, the information was frequently obtained from persons who may not have been able to recall accurately in April or May the amount of employment during the previous year.

Comparability with 1940 Census.--In 1950, no distinction was made between a part-time and a full-time work week, whereas in 1940 the enumerator was instructed to convert part-time work to equivalent full-time weeks. A full-time week was defined as the number of hours locally regarded as full time for the given occupation and industry. The tables in this report cover all persons 14 years of age and over, but, in 1940, those tables relating age, household relationship, etc., to work experience in 1939 were limited to wage and salary workers. Separate figures

by class of worker on this subject are shown for 1950 in the special report "Occupational and Industrial Characteristics."

There was some tendency, in both 1940 and 1950, for enumerators to obtain the information on weeks worked in terms of months and to convert into weeks by multiplying by 4 rather than by  $4\frac{1}{3}$  as instructed. In both years, therefore, the class intervals were so selected that instances in which months were originally reported were included in the same interval, regardless of whether the conversion was made on the basis of 4 or  $4\frac{1}{3}$  weeks per month. In the 1940 reports, however, the statistics were published in terms of months, whereas in the 1950 reports units of weeks are used.

#### AGE

Age classifications form an essential framework for the analysis of the employment status of the population. For example, only a relatively small proportion of persons of high-school age are in the labor market. This proportion increases substantially for young males in their late teens when large numbers leave school and, by the latter half of the twenties, almost all adult males are members of the labor force. The proportion in the labor force continues very high, but decreases somewhat with increasing age and disability. In the later years, considerable numbers retire completely until, at age 70 and beyond, the majority are no longer in the labor force.

The pattern for women is quite different. The labor force participation rates are very low for school-age girls but rise substantially during the period subsequent to leaving school. This period of peak economic activity is relatively short, however, as most women marry and acquire responsibilities for the care of small children. When their children reach school age, some women re-enter the labor market, if only on a part-time basis. Approximately one-third of the women 35 to 54 years of age were in the 1950 labor force. This proportion diminishes steadily at subsequent ages; only about 8 percent of the women 65 years and over were in the labor market at the time of the census.

These differences by age are summarized in table C. Separate figures by urban-rural residence are included and are discussed in the section below on "Residence." Figure I portrays the labor force status of persons at each single year of age.<sup>2</sup> This

<sup>2</sup> The estimated number of persons in the population at each single year of age was obtained, for the most part, by mathematical interpolation of complete-count statistics for 5-year age groups. The number of persons in the labor force at each single year of age (except for women 30 to 54 years of age) was obtained by multiplication of the smoothed population data by the respective labor force participation rates shown in table 1. For women 30 to 54 years of age, it was believed that age misreporting had introduced a bias in the single year of age figures for the number in the labor force as well as for the number in the population. (See paragraph on the definition of age.) Therefore, the rates presented in table 1 were not used for women of these ages. Instead, the number in the labor force, as illustrated in figure I, was obtained for these ages by mathematical interpolation of the labor force totals for the 5-year age groups in table 1.

schematic representation is of particular value for the analysis of transition age periods when people tend to enter or to leave the labor force more or less permanently. There have been significant changes over the past decade in the pattern of employment status by age. Comparison of the 1940 and 1950 labor force participation rates of the population, in 5-year age groups, is made in table C and is also shown graphically in figure II.

All of the detailed employment status tables in this report contain information on age, in view of its basic importance in the analysis of the characteristics of the actual and potential labor supply. This subject is also pertinent to the examination of part-time employment and is, therefore, generally included in the tables on hours worked during the census week and weeks worked during 1949. In general, part-time or part-year work is most common at the beginning of a man's working life when he still attends school and also works part time or during summer vacations prior to entering the labor force on a full-time basis. Again, toward the end of his working life, part-time employment is in many cases a step toward complete retirement. For women, on the other hand, particularly those with home responsibilities, part-time employment is fairly common at almost all ages and is usually not a prelude to accepting a full-time job.

The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday as of the date of enumeration, that is, the age of the person in completed years. The enumerator was instructed to obtain the age of each person as of the date of his visit rather than as of April 1, 1950.

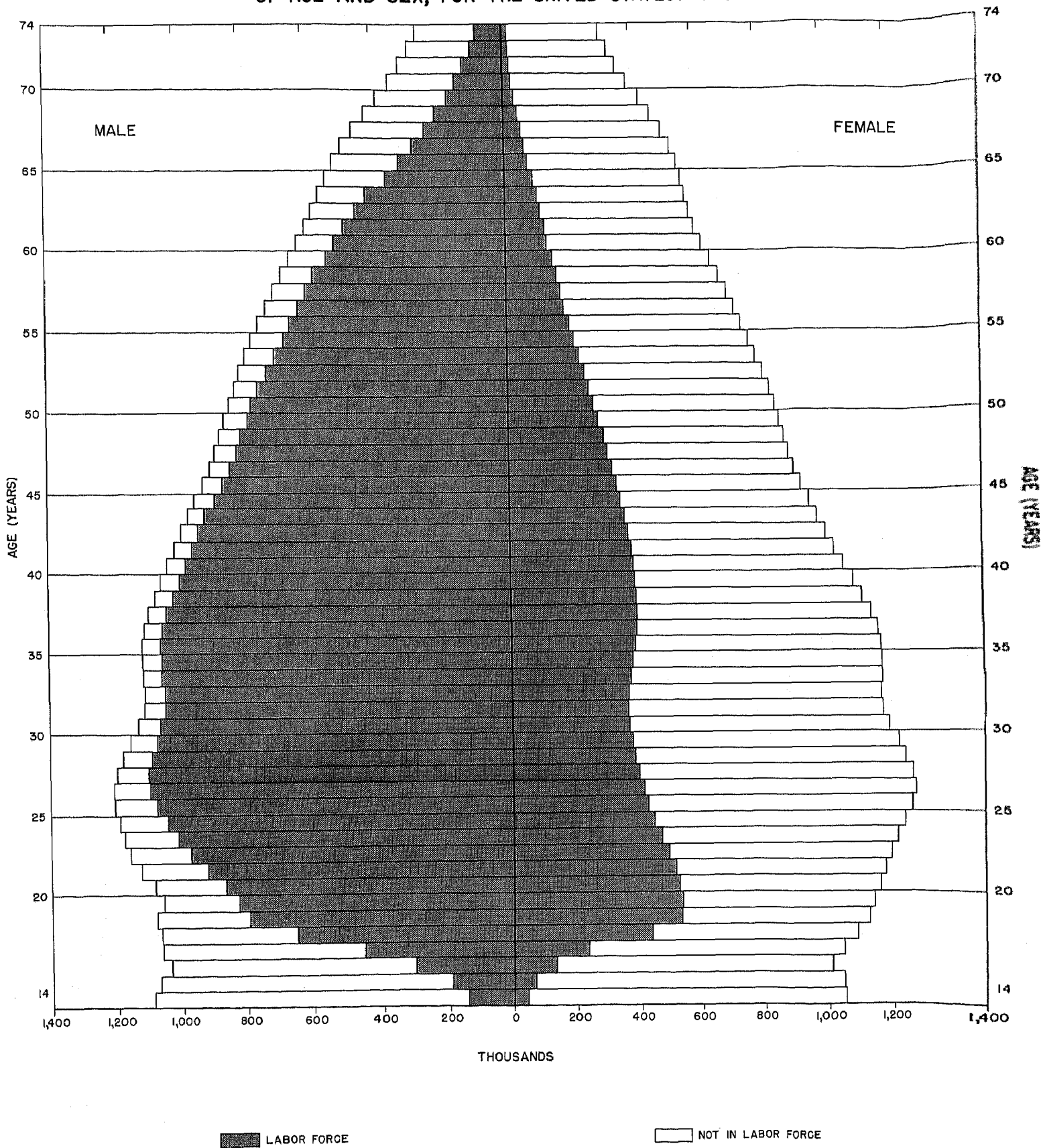
A considerable body of evidence exists which indicates that age is misreported in several characteristic ways and that certain age groups are less completely enumerated than others in censuses. A comparison of age distributions from the 1950 Census with age distributions based on figures from the 1940 Census and brought up to date from official records of births, deaths, and migration suggests this generalization is also true for the 1950 Census. This comparison shows that, for the United States as a whole, there appears to be an underenumeration of males between the ages of 18 and 34. Likewise, there appears to be a deficit of persons in the age range 55 to 64 years.

In addition to errors in the statistics for broad age groups, statistics for single years of age generally reflect a tendency toward the over-reporting of ages ending in 0, 2, 5, and 8, that is, the frequencies for these single years of age tend to exceed those for the two adjoining years. This type of misreporting presumably occurs in situations in which the respondent, in the absence of specific knowledge as to his exact age or the age of the person for whom he is reporting, gives an approximate figure.

The data suggest that this misreporting is probably, on the average, somewhat greater for women, and as a result, a bias is introduced in the comparisons of labor force participation rates for single years among women 30 to 54 years old. The age of women not related to the respondent--e. g., lodgers--is more usually approximated in the manner described above, and these women are also more likely to be members of the labor force. Consequently, the labor force participation rates of women at ages

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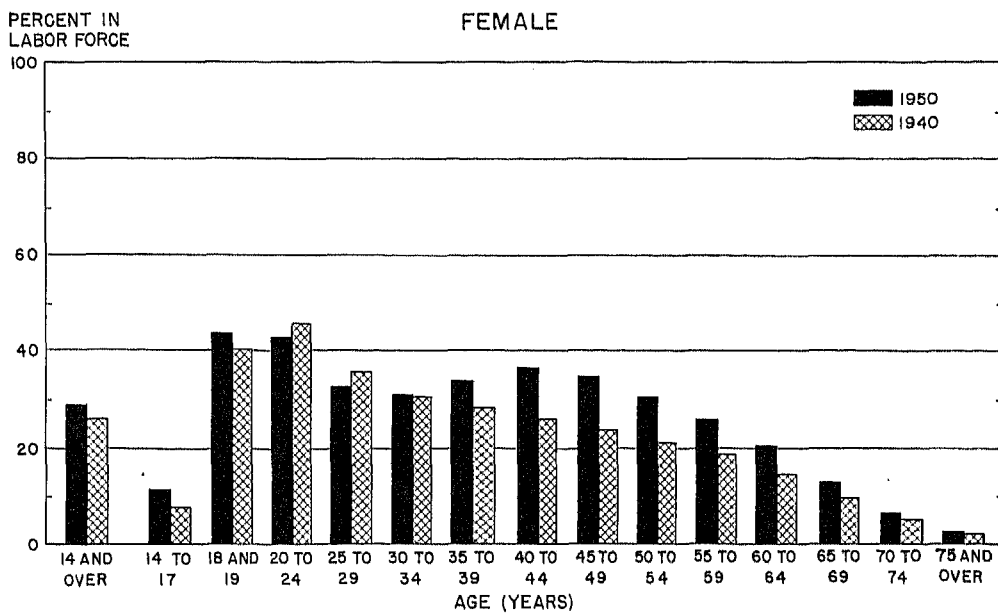
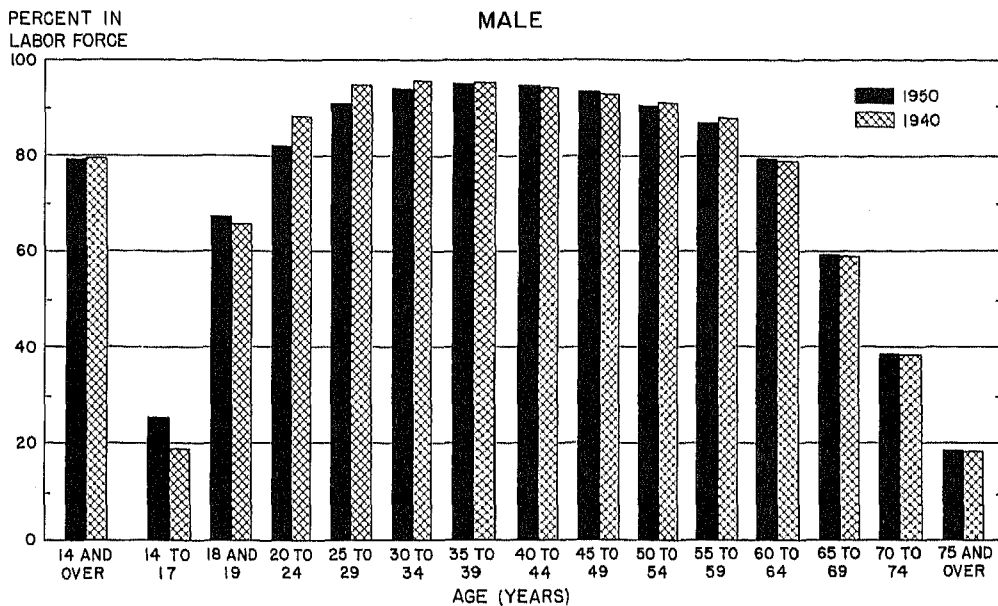
FIGURE 1. - LABOR FORCE STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 74 YEARS OLD, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950



SOURCE: TABLE I; DATA SMOOTHED



FIGURE 2.— LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950 AND 1940



SOURCE: TABLE 2



30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 and, to some extent, 32, 38, 42, 48, and 52 are probably somewhat lower than those shown in tables 1 and 2 and the rates for the adjoining years somewhat greater.

### RESIDENCE

Social attitudes and economic circumstances affecting labor force participation vary among different types of communities. For example, it is usually convenient for teen-age boys living on farms to work on the family farm while also attending school, and they are frequently expected to do so. Consequently, rural-farm youths tend to enter the labor force at an earlier age than do urban or rural-nonfarm youths. Similarly, the working life of rural-farm men tends to be longer than that of men living in other areas. On the other hand, the types of employment opportunities available to women are comparatively limited in farm areas; a greater proportion of the women in urban centers are in the labor force. (These differences are revealed in table C.) There are also differences in the number of weeks worked during the year and in the number of hours worked during the census week by urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm residents. In order to examine in detail the nature of these differences and, also, to permit analysis of other characteristics of the actual and potential labor force within each residence group, the statistics in this report are shown separately for the urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm population. Allowance should be made in this analysis, however, for the fact that the census was taken in a season during which agricultural employment is about 80 percent of the peak for the year, according to data from the Current Population Survey. If the enumeration had been made in the summer or early fall, when seasonal farm work is at high levels, the proportion of rural-farm women and teen-agers in the labor force would have been greater.

Even within urban or rural areas, the size of the community frequently influences the presence of certain types of industry and, consequently, of opportunities for employment. This relationship is particularly true with respect to the employment of women. For example, industries such as trade and services, in which many women are employed, are more important, in general, in the larger cities than in small communities. On the other hand, textile mills, which also traditionally furnish many jobs to women, are frequently located in medium-sized or small towns. Limited statistics on the interrelationships between the employment status of the population and the size of the place they live in are, therefore, also presented in this report. For the urban population, the data identify separately those living in urbanized areas, i. e., cities of 50,000 inhabitants or more and the thickly settled "fringe" around the city. The work pattern of persons living within the urbanized area is closely related to the industrial structure of the entire area although some live in small urban places or in unincorporated territory in the "fringe."

### Definitions

Urban and rural residence.--According to the new definition that was adopted for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more

except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. According to the old definition, the urban population was limited to all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density. In view of this change in definition, the statistics for 1940 by urban-rural residence are not comparable with those presented here for 1950.

Farm population--urban and rural.--The farm population for 1950, as for 1940 and 1930, includes all persons living on farms without regard to occupation. In determining farm and nonfarm residence in the 1950 Census, however, certain special groups were classified otherwise than in earlier censuses. In 1950, persons living on what might have been considered farm land were classified as nonfarm if they paid cash rent for their homes and yards only. A few persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as farm residents in 1940, whereas in 1950 all such persons were classified as nonfarm. For the United States as a whole, there is evidence from the Current Population Survey that the farm population in 1950 would have been slightly larger had the 1940 procedure been used. In this report data are presented for the rural-farm population rather than for the total farm population since virtually all of the farm population is located in rural areas.

Rural-nonfarm population.--The rural-nonfarm population includes all persons living outside of urban areas who do not live on farms. The rural-nonfarm population comprises persons living in a variety of types of residences, such as isolated nonfarm homes in the open country, villages and hamlets of fewer than 2,500 inhabitants, and some of the fringe areas surrounding the smaller incorporated places.

Urbanized areas.--As indicated above, one of the components of urban territory under the new definition of urban-rural residence is the urban fringe. Areas of this type in combination with the cities which they surround have been defined in the 1950 Census as urbanized areas. Each urbanized area contains at least one city with 50,000 inhabitants or more in 1940 or according to a special census taken between 1940 and 1950.

Size of place.--In table 4, the relationship of employment status to size of place is shown for the population classified by residence in or outside urbanized areas. The size classes relate to the size of the place itself, not to the size of the urbanized area. The term "place" refers to a concentration of population regardless of legally prescribed limits. Thus, places may or may not be incorporated. In a majority of instances, however, the legally prescribed limits of incorporated places serve to define concentrations of population.

### COLOR AND RACE

The pattern of labor force activity on the part of the nonwhite population differs in some important

respects from that of the white population. (See table D below.) For example, nonwhite youths tend to go to work when comparatively young, frequently leaving school to do so. Similarly, because of economic pressures, nonwhite women are more likely than white women to work after they marry and begin to raise children. As a matter of fact, the labor force participation rates reach their maximum for nonwhite women at a substantially later age than for white women. This difference is probably due, in part, to the fact that a relatively large proportion of nonwhite women are employed as private household workers, an occupation in which opportunities for the employment of older women are comparatively favorable. Among younger nonwhite women (18 to 24 years of age), on the other hand, a somewhat smaller proportion are classified as members of the labor force than is the case for white women. In this age group, proportionately more nonwhite women live in rural-farm areas where employment opportunities for women are limited.

The statistics on employment status in this report are presented separately for the white and nonwhite population in considerable detail in order to show the nature of these differences and to provide a basis for analyzing some of the factors (residence, marital status, school enrollment, etc.) that give rise to them. Limited data are also presented for Negroes separately from other nonwhite races, since these groups vary in respect to several factors affecting labor force participation, such as residence and personal characteristics, social attitudes, and types of occupations to which they tend to be attached.

The data in the tables on hours worked during the census week and weeks worked during 1949 are also shown separately for white and nonwhite persons. These data indicate that nonwhite workers more frequently work part time and part of the year than do white workers. A relatively large proportion of nonwhite workers are employed in industries, such as agriculture and personal services, where part-time or occasional work is widely prevalent. In the analysis of comparative labor force participation rates for the white and nonwhite population, it should be remembered that census enumerators tended to omit from the labor force some persons who worked intermittently or on a part-time basis. (See paragraph on "Current Population Survey.") The differences in some age groups may reflect this fact rather than actual variations in the activity of the two populations.

#### Definitions

The concept of race as it has been used by the Bureau of the Census is derived from that which is commonly accepted by the general public as reflected in the action of legislative and judicial bodies of the country. It does not, therefore, reflect clear-cut definitions of biological stock, and several categories obviously refer to nationalities.

**Color.**--The term "color" refers to the division of population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were classified as white in 1950 and 1940. In the 1930 publications, Mexicans were included in the group "Other races."

**Negro.**--In addition to full-blooded Negroes, this classification includes persons of mixed white and Negro parentage and persons of mixed Indian and Negro parentage unless the Indian blood very definitely predominates or unless the individual is accepted in the community as an Indian.

**Other races.**--This category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

**Mixed parentage.**--Persons of mixed parentage are classified according to the race of the nonwhite parent and mixtures of nonwhite races are generally classified according to the race of the father.

#### NATIVITY

Separate statistics on the economic activity of the foreign-born white population are also included, on a limited basis, in this report. Because this group constitutes a shrinking proportion of the total population, the information has been given less emphasis in the 1950 Census publications than in the reports for previous years. Differences in labor force participation rates for foreign-born and native white persons occur, in part, because the foreign-born white population tends to be older, on the average, and to be concentrated in cities. There are other reasons for differences, however. Among women 45 years old or over in urban areas, for example, proportionately fewer foreign born are members of the labor force. It is likely that cultural attitudes among middle-aged and older foreign-born women and their relative lack of employable skills discourage work activity outside the home.

Summary statistics on the comparative labor force participation rates of the foreign-born and native white population, classified by age, are presented in table D. Additional detail, including a classification by residence, is presented in table 5.

The classification of the population into the two basic groups, native and foreign born, is based on replies to the question, "What State (or foreign country) was he born in?" A person born in the United States or any of its Territories or possessions is counted as native. Also included as native is the small group of persons who, although born in a foreign country or at sea, were American citizens by birth because their parents were American citizens. The small number of persons for whom place of birth was not reported were assumed to be native.

#### HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP AND MARITAL STATUS

Family responsibilities still constitute the most important social determinant of economic activity despite recent changes in labor force patterns of married women. A measurement of family responsibility is provided by census data on household relationship and marital status. For example, although the great majority of men 18 to 64 years old are labor force members, the proportion in the labor force is greatest for heads of households who are married and living with their wives. Even among men who did not head their own households, the labor force participation rates are greater for the married group, since they were more likely to have assumed the responsibility for the financial support of others.

The labor force participation of women, however, is much more directly related to their household relationship and marital status than is the case for men. For married women, household responsibilities frequently prevent employment outside the home. On the other hand, in the modern, largely urban society, a job is an economic necessity for many single, widowed, or divorced women. The proportion in the labor force is relatively high among such groups as women living as lodgers, single women who were heads of households, or unmarried daughters living with their parents. The proportion among wives of household heads and, to some extent, other married women related to the head is lower. The proportion is especially low for wives under 35 years of age, who are most likely to have young children in their families.

Table 9 summarizes these data and indicates the changes that have taken place over the decade of the forties, changes that have been particularly sharp for married women past 35 years of age. The developments since 1940 are a continuation of the long-time trend in widening employment opportunities for women as a result of both technological changes in industry and the growing demand for white collar workers. The process has been accelerated, however, by experiences during the labor shortage years of World War II and, of particular importance to married women, by the growth of facilities for the daytime care of children and the greater availability of time-saving equipment for housekeeping.

A number of tables in this report show the employment status of the population by household relationship and marital status, as well as by residence, age, and color. These data are useful in analyzing and projecting the potential manpower supply of the United States. They indicate the extent to which the pressure of home responsibilities may deter labor force participation on the part of women, who represent the largest reservoir of potential workers. Relevant to this analysis are the separate figures in table 17 on the work experience in 1949 of married women living with their husband, further classified by labor force status during the census week.

#### Definitions

Household.--A household includes all the persons who occupy a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a room that constitutes a dwelling unit. In general, a group of rooms occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or a separate entrance; a single room occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or if it constitutes the only living quarters in the structure. A household includes the related family members and also the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the dwelling unit. A person living alone in a dwelling unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a dwelling unit as partners, is also counted as a household.

Relationship to head of household.--Persons living in households are further classified on the basis of their relationship to the head into the following categories:

1. Head of household.--One person in each household is designated as the "head." The number of

heads, therefore, is equal to the number of households. The head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the household. Married women are not classified as heads if their husbands are living with them at the time of the census.

2. Wife.--The total number of females shown under the heading "wife" is ordinarily somewhat less than the total number of married women with husband present, since the category "Wife" as a relationship classification includes only wives of heads of households. The marital status category "Married, husband present" includes, in addition, married relatives of the head, such as married daughters and daughters-in-law, and married women living with their husbands either in quasi households or as lodgers or resident employees of households.

3. Other relative.--This group comprises other relatives of the head who are members of the household, regardless of their age or marital status. It includes children, stepchildren, adopted children, and sons- and daughters-in-law; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; parents, parents-in-law, and grand-parents; sisters, brothers, and sisters- and brothers-in-law; and nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

4. Not relative of head.--This category consists primarily of two groups: (a) Lodgers, roomers, boarders, and their relatives residing in the same household; and (b) employees of the household who usually reside with their employer, such as cooks, maids, nurses, and hired farm hands, and the relatives of such employees also living in the household. Also included in the category "Not relative of head" are partners, foster children, and wards.

Quasi household.--A quasi household is a group of persons living in quarters not classified as a dwelling unit, for example, in a house with at least five lodgers, or in a hotel, institution, labor camp, or military barracks.

Marital status.--In the 1950 Census, data on marital status are based on the replies to the question, "Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or [has he] never [been] married?" The classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Persons classified as "married" comprise, therefore, both those who have been married only once and those who have remarried after having been widowed or divorced. Persons reported as separated or in common-law marriages are classified as married. Those reported as never married or with annulled marriages are classified as single. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried.

The category "Married" is further divided into "married, spouse present" and "married, spouse absent." A person is classified as "married, spouse present" if the person's husband or wife was reported as a member of the household or quasi household in which the person was enumerated, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Differences between the total number of men and women classified as "married, spouse present" arise from sampling variation and from response and processing errors.

Persons reported as separated are included in the group designated as "married, spouse absent." Separated persons are married persons permanently or temporarily living apart from their spouse because of marital discord. Other married persons with spouse absent include persons in the armed forces or employed and living at a considerable distance from their homes and other persons whose place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse.

### SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Although many young persons do not enter the labor force until they have completed their education or have left school, there is some overlap in these activities. This has been particularly true in recent years when the economic situation provided favorable opportunities for the part-time employment of students. Full-time workers have also tended to continue their schooling to a greater degree than previously, in part as a result of the education provisions of the GI Bill of Rights.

Statistics on the employment status of the population 14 to 29 years classified by school enrollment are presented by single years of age in this report. Data on the number of hours worked by employed students, but in age groups rather than in single years, are published in Chapter C of the separate parts of Volume II, Characteristics of the Population, or in the preprints of these chapters, the Series P-C bulletins "Detailed Characteristics."

#### Definitions

The data on school enrollment were derived from answers to the question, "Has he attended school at any time since February 1?" Thus, some persons classified as both enrolled and in the labor force may not have actually carried on their schooling and work activities at the same time. For example, they may

have been enrolled in school in February but may have discontinued school and entered the labor market during the period subsequent to February but prior to their enumeration in the census. In general, persons under 18 years of age not reporting on school enrollment were treated as enrolled, whereas those 18 through 29 years old were considered not enrolled.

"Regular" schools.--In the instructions to the enumerators, enrollment was defined as enrollment in "regular" schools only. Such schools are public, private, or parochial schools, colleges, universities, or professional schools, either day or night--that is, those schools where enrollment may lead to an elementary or high school diploma, or to a college, university, or professional school degree. Enrollment could be full time or part time.

If a person was enrolled in such a school subsequent to February 1, 1950, he was classified as enrolled even if he had not actually attended school since that date. For example, he may not have attended because of illness.

If a person was receiving regular instruction at home from a tutor and if the instruction was considered comparable to that of a regular school or college, the person was counted as enrolled. Enrollment in a correspondence course was counted only if the course was given by a regular school, such as a university, and the person received credit thereby in the regular school system.

Schools excluded.--Persons enrolled in vocational, trade, or business schools were excluded from the enrollment figures unless such schools were graded and considered a part of a regular school system. Persons receiving on-the-job training in connection with their work were not counted as enrolled in school. Persons enrolled in correspondence courses other than those described above were not counted as enrolled in school.

Table A.--EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950 AND 1940

(1950 statistics based on 3 1/3-percent sample; 1940 statistics, 5-percent sample)

Employment status	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	1950	1940	1950	1940	1950	1940
Total, 14 years and over....	111,693,240	101,015,740	54,610,050	50,543,840	57,083,190	50,471,900
Labor force.....	59,670,540	52,966,280	43,117,500	39,958,800	16,553,040	13,007,480
Percent of total.....	53.4	52.4	79.0	79.1	29.0	25.8
Civilian labor force.....	58,669,020	52,688,280	42,147,060	39,680,800	16,521,960	13,007,480
Employed.....	55,815,870	45,103,360	40,062,870	33,824,440	15,753,000	11,278,920
Unemployed.....	2,853,150	7,584,920	2,084,190	5,856,360	768,960	1,728,560
Not in labor force.....	52,022,700	48,049,460	11,492,550	10,585,040	40,530,150	37,464,420
Keeping house.....	32,335,980	28,685,300	262,800	273,760	32,073,180	28,411,540
Unable to work.....	4,623,420	5,221,500	2,756,670	2,953,400	1,866,750	2,268,100
Inmates of institutions....	1,433,820	1,142,340	869,700	746,940	564,120	395,400
Other.....	12,399,300	11,013,180	7,027,530	5,788,780	5,371,770	5,224,400
Not reported.....	1,230,180	1,987,140	575,850	822,160	654,330	1,164,980

## SPECIAL REPORTS

Table B.--LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BASED ON REPORTS FOR IDENTICAL PERSONS OBTAINED BY CENSUS AND BY CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY ENUMERATORS, BY AGE, COLOR, AND SEX

(Data for approximately 51,000 persons enumerated in both the Population Census and the Current Population Survey for April 1950)

Age, color, and sex	Labor force participation rates based on--		Census rate as percent of Current Population Survey rate	Age, color, and sex	Labor force participation rates based on--		Census rate as percent of Current Population Survey rate
	Census enumeration	Current Population Survey enumeration			Census enumeration	Current Population Survey enumeration	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>WHITE--Con.</b>			
Male, 14 and over..	81.5	84.0	97.0	Female, 14 and over	28.3	30.6	92.5
14 to 17 years.....	27.0	35.0	77.1	14 to 17 years.....	13.2	16.7	79.0
18 to 24 years.....	83.1	86.2	96.4	18 to 24 years.....	45.0	46.4	97.0
25 to 44 years.....	95.1	96.9	98.1	25 to 44 years.....	31.1	33.5	92.8
45 to 64 years.....	90.1	92.1	97.8	45 to 64 years.....	28.4	30.8	92.2
65 and over.....	44.4	45.9	96.7	65 and over.....	6.7	8.4	79.8
Female, 14 and over	29.2	31.7	92.1	<b>NONWHITE</b>			
14 to 17 years.....	13.2	17.1	77.2	Male, 14 and over..	79.5	84.2	94.4
18 to 24 years.....	44.0	45.5	96.7	14 to 17 years.....	37.5	46.1	81.3
25 to 44 years.....	32.4	35.1	92.3	18 to 24 years.....	82.6	89.5	92.2
45 to 64 years.....	29.5	32.1	91.9	25 to 44 years.....	90.9	94.2	96.5
65 and over.....	7.0	8.9	78.7	45 to 64 years.....	88.3	93.2	94.7
<b>WHITE</b>				65 and over.....	43.9	43.9	100.0
Male, 14 and over..	81.7	84.0	97.3	Female, 14 and over	37.0	41.7	88.7
14 to 17 years.....	25.6	33.6	76.2	14 to 17 years.....	13.0	20.0	65.0
18 to 24 years.....	83.2	85.9	96.9	18 to 24 years.....	35.9	37.9	94.7
25 to 44 years.....	95.5	97.1	98.4	25 to 44 years.....	44.7	50.0	89.4
45 to 64 years.....	90.3	92.0	98.2	45 to 64 years.....	42.0	46.5	90.3
65 and over.....	44.5	46.0	96.7	65 and over.....	11.1	15.1	73.5

Table C.--LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL, 1950, AND FOR THE UNITED STATES, 1940

(1950 statistics based on 3 1/3-percent sample; 1940 statistics, 5-percent sample)

Age and sex	1950				1940, total	Age and sex	1950				1940, total
	Total	Urban	Rural non-farm	Rural farm			Total	Urban	Rural non-farm	Rural farm	
Male, 14 and over..	79.0	79.5	74.1	83.0	79.1	Female, 14 and over	29.0	33.3	22.8	16.1	25.8
14 to 17 years.....	25.6	21.3	22.9	38.2	18.8	14 to 17 years.....	11.4	12.9	10.0	9.1	7.9
18 to 19 years.....	67.1	61.9	71.2	78.1	65.9	18 to 19 years.....	43.7	50.4	34.1	26.7	40.1
20 to 24 years.....	81.9	78.8	84.6	92.5	88.1	20 to 24 years.....	42.9	49.4	30.7	24.6	45.6
25 to 29 years.....	90.4	89.9	89.2	95.3	94.8	25 to 29 years.....	32.6	37.4	23.6	18.4	35.5
30 to 34 years.....	94.0	94.2	91.6	96.6	95.4	30 to 34 years.....	31.0	35.1	24.3	18.0	30.9
35 to 39 years.....	94.7	95.0	92.2	96.9	95.1	35 to 39 years.....	33.8	38.2	28.5	18.5	28.3
40 to 44 years.....	94.5	94.8	91.4	96.8	94.1	40 to 44 years.....	36.4	41.0	31.0	19.5	26.0
45 to 49 years.....	93.3	93.7	89.3	96.2	92.9	45 to 49 years.....	34.8	39.2	30.2	18.2	23.7
50 to 54 years.....	90.5	91.2	84.6	94.1	91.0	50 to 54 years.....	30.8	34.8	26.3	16.2	21.2
55 to 59 years.....	86.7	87.6	78.8	92.0	87.9	55 to 59 years.....	25.9	29.4	21.8	13.6	18.5
60 to 64 years.....	79.4	80.1	70.0	87.4	79.0	60 to 64 years.....	20.6	23.6	16.6	10.9	14.8
65 to 69 years.....	59.7	58.5	48.7	77.3	59.4	65 to 69 years.....	13.0	14.7	10.7	8.0	9.5
70 to 74 years.....	38.7	35.3	30.1	62.0	38.4	70 to 74 years.....	6.4	7.0	4.9	5.4	5.1
75 and over.....	18.7	16.1	13.3	36.2	18.2	75 and over.....	2.6	2.8	2.0	2.5	2.3

Table D.--LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BY AGE, COLOR, NATIVITY, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

(Based on 3 1/3-percent sample)

Age and sex	Total	White		Non-white	Age and sex	Total	White		Non-white
		Native	Foreign born				Native	Foreign born	
Male, 14 and over..	79.0	79.7	75.3	76.6	Female, 14 and over	29.0	28.7	22.0	37.1
14 to 17 years.....	25.6	24.7	35.5	31.8	14 to 17 years.....	11.4	11.4	14.8	11.9
18 and 19 years.....	67.1	67.0	60.4	69.1	18 and 19 years.....	43.7	45.4	47.1	31.3
20 to 24 years.....	81.9	82.1	78.2	80.4	20 to 24 years.....	42.9	43.5	40.7	39.5
25 to 34 years.....	92.1	92.8	91.6	86.2	25 to 34 years.....	31.8	30.2	32.0	44.3
35 to 44 years.....	94.6	95.0	95.6	90.6	35 to 44 years.....	35.0	33.4	34.1	48.5
45 to 54 years.....	92.0	92.1	93.6	88.4	45 to 54 years.....	32.9	32.1	30.2	43.5
55 to 64 years.....	83.4	83.6	83.8	80.2	55 to 64 years.....	23.5	23.7	19.6	31.4
65 to 74 years.....	51.3	52.1	48.7	51.9	65 to 74 years.....	10.3	10.5	8.6	13.5
75 and over.....	18.7	19.8	14.2	22.3	75 and over.....	2.6	2.6	2.2	3.8

## RELIABILITY OF DATA

## SAMPLE DESIGN

The data for 1950 in this report are based on information tabulated for a representative sample of approximately 3 1/3 percent of the population. A separate line was provided on the population schedules for each person enumerated, with every fifth line designated as a sample line. Within each enumeration district, the schedules were divided approximately equally among five versions. On each version the sample constituted a different set of lines so that each line on the schedule was in the sample on one of the five versions.<sup>3</sup> The 1950 statistics in this report are based on tabulations of a systematic selection of one-sixth of the persons on these sample lines, or about 3 1/3 percent of the population.

Estimates for 1950 of the number of persons with specified characteristics have in all cases been obtained by multiplying the number of persons in the sample with these characteristics by 30. Estimates of percentages have been obtained in each case by using the sample values for both the numerator and denominator.

Although the sampling plan used did not automatically insure an exact 3 1/3-percent sample of persons, it was unbiased and for the United States the deviation from 3 1/3 percent was expected to be quite small for major classes of the population. Small biases, however, arose when the enumerator failed to follow his instructions exactly. These were usually in the direction of a slight underrepresentation of adult males, particularly heads of households in the sample. Errors of processing as noted in the section on "Accuracy and internal consistency of data" resulted in a further reduction in the sample size. (As

<sup>3</sup> In 19 counties of Michigan and Ohio, the sample consisted basically of every fifth household and all persons in these households were considered in the sample. Such a household sample was used as an experiment to determine the feasibility of this type of sample in future censuses of population.

a result of these errors, a few numbers may not be exact multiples of 30.)

Table E compares the employment status distribution of the population, as presented in this report, with corresponding statistics based on the complete count and on the 20-percent sample presented in Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population. Differences among the columns in table E reflect, among other things, enumerators' errors in selecting the sample and errors in processing. The net effect of these factors is relatively small and should have little influence on the interpretation of the data.

The comparable data for 1940 shown in the tables are based on a 5-percent sample of the population enumerated in the 1940 Census. For a description of the sample see the report of the 1940 Census of Population, "The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)--Employment and Personal Characteristics."

## SAMPLING VARIABILITY

Since the data in this report are based on samples of the population, they are subject to sampling variability. The sampling variability of the 1950 data can be estimated from the standard errors shown in tables F and G. These tables do not reflect the biases mentioned above. Table F presents the approximate standard errors of 1950 sample estimates of selected sizes. Table G shows the approximate standard errors of 1950 percentages when computed by using data from this report for both numerator and denominator. Linear interpolation can be used for estimates not shown in these tables.

The standard error is a measure of sampling variability. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the difference due to sampling variability between an estimate and the figure that would have been obtained from a complete count of the population is less than the standard error. The amount by which the standard error must be multiplied to obtain other odds deemed more appropriate can be found in most statistical textbooks. For example, the chances are about 19 out

of 20 that the difference is less than twice the standard error, and 99 out of 100 that it is less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the standard error.

**Illustration:** Table 1 shows an estimated 62,280 nonwhite women 25 years of age were in the labor force in the United States in April 1950 (40.6 percent of the 153,420 nonwhite women of this age in the United States). From linear interpolation between values in table F it is found that the standard error of an estimate of 62,280 for the Nation as a whole is about 1,360. Consequently, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the figure which would have been obtained from a complete count of the number of nonwhite women 25 years of age in the labor force in the United States differs by less than 1,360 from the sample estimate. It also follows that there is only about 1 chance in 100 that a complete census would differ by as much as 3,400, that is, by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the standard error. It may be estimated from table G, also by linear interpolation, that the standard error of the 40.6 percent on a base of 153,420 is about 0.8 percent.

A rough approximation to the standard errors of the 1940 data can be obtained by using 80 percent of the standard errors shown in tables F and G.

The standard errors shown in tables F and G are not directly applicable to differences between two estimates. The standard error of a difference is approximately the square root of the sum of the squares of the standard error of each estimate considered separately. This formula will represent the actual standard error quite accurately for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics. It can also be used to approximate the standard error of the difference between estimates of the same characteristic in 1950 and 1940. In other cases, however, if there is a high positive correlation between the two characteristics, it will overestimate the true standard error.

Tables F and G are not directly applicable to estimates of medians, if these are computed from the sample data. The sampling variability of estimates of medians depends on the distributions upon which the medians are based.<sup>4</sup>

The smaller figures and small differences between figures should be used with particular care because they are subject to larger relative error arising from sampling variability and processing and enumeration errors. These figures have been included in the tables to permit analysis of broader groups with smaller relative error.

#### RATIO ESTIMATES

It is possible to make an improved estimate of an absolute number (improved in the sense that the

standard error is smaller) whenever the class in question forms a part of a larger group for which both a sample estimate and a complete count are available. (Complete counts for many of the broader classes for which data are shown may be found in Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population.) This alternative estimate is particularly useful when the characteristic being estimated is a substantial part of the larger group; when the proportion is small, the improvement will be relatively minor. The improved estimate (usually referred to as a ratio estimate) may be obtained by multiplying a percentage based on sample data by the figure which represents the complete count of the base of the percentage. An alternative method is to multiply the estimate shown in this report by the ratio of the complete count to the sample estimate of the larger group. The last column of table E contains such ratios for some major groups of employment status and can be used to derive ratio estimates.

The effect of using ratio estimates of this type is, in general, to reduce the relative sampling variability from that shown for an estimate of a given size in table F to that shown for the corresponding percentage in table G. Estimates of these types are not being published by the Bureau of the Census because of the much higher cost necessary for their preparation than for estimates derived by multiplying the sample results by 30.

In addition to providing statistics on the characteristics of the population based on complete counts, Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population also contains 20-percent sample data. These can also be used as the basis of ratio estimates, although, in this case, there will be a smaller reduction in the standard errors.

<sup>4</sup> The standard error of a median based on sample data may be estimated as follows: If the estimated total number reporting the characteristic is  $N$ , compute the number  $\frac{N}{2} - 2.8\sqrt{N}$ . Cumulate the frequencies in the table until the class interval which contains this number is located. By linear interpolation, obtain the value below which  $\frac{N}{2} - 2.8\sqrt{N}$  cases lie. In a similar manner, obtain the value below which  $\frac{N}{2} + 2.8\sqrt{N}$  cases lie. If information on the characteristic had been obtained from the total population, the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the median would lie between these two values. The chances will be about 19 out of 20 that the median will be in the interval computed similarly but using  $\frac{N}{2} \pm 2(2.8)\sqrt{N}$  and about 99 in 100 that it will be in the interval obtained by using  $\frac{N}{2} \pm (2.5)(2.8)\sqrt{N}$ .



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Table E.--COMPARISON OF COMPLETE COUNT AND SAMPLE DATA ON EMPLOYMENT STATUS, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

Employment status and sex	Complete count	20 percent	3 1/3 percent	Percent distribution			Ratio of complete count to 3 1/3 percent
				Complete count	20 percent	3 1/3 percent	
<b>MALE</b>							
Persons 14 years old and over..	55,311,617	54,601,105	54,610,050	100.0	100.0	100.0	101.3
Labor force.....	43,553,386	43,091,000	43,117,500	78.7	78.9	79.0	101.0
Civilian labor force.....	42,598,767	42,126,325	42,147,060	77.0	77.1	77.2	101.1
Employed.....	40,519,462	40,037,490	40,062,870	73.3	73.3	73.4	101.1
Unemployed.....	2,079,305	2,088,835	2,084,190	3.8	3.8	3.8	99.8
Not in labor force.....	11,758,231	11,510,105	11,492,550	21.3	21.1	21.0	102.3
Keeping house.....	286,139	265,475	262,800	0.5	0.5	0.5	108.9
Unable to work.....	2,753,711	2,747,915	2,756,670	5.0	5.0	5.0	99.9
Inmates of institutions.....	878,905	873,060	869,700	1.6	1.6	1.6	101.1
Other and not reported.....	7,839,476	7,623,655	7,603,380	14.2	14.0	13.9	103.1
<b>FEMALE</b>							
Persons 14 years old and over..	57,042,417	57,102,295	57,083,190	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9
Labor force.....	16,500,582	16,551,990	16,553,040	28.9	29.0	29.0	99.7
Civilian labor force.....	16,472,888	16,519,690	16,521,960	28.9	28.9	28.9	99.7
Employed.....	15,719,987	15,750,660	15,753,000	27.6	27.6	27.6	99.8
Unemployed.....	752,901	769,030	768,960	1.3	1.3	1.3	97.9
Not in labor force.....	40,541,835	40,550,305	40,530,150	71.1	71.0	71.0	100.0
Keeping house.....	31,894,294	32,072,440	32,073,180	55.9	56.2	56.2	99.4
Unable to work.....	1,811,927	1,872,030	1,866,750	3.2	3.3	3.3	97.1
Inmates of institutions.....	565,231	563,760	564,120	1.0	1.0	1.0	100.2
Other and not reported.....	6,270,383	6,042,075	6,026,100	11.0	10.6	10.6	104.1

Table F.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER (Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated number	United States	Urban	Rural	Estimated number	United States	Urban	Rural
100.....	60	60	60	100,000.....	1,760	1,760	1,760
500.....	120	120	120	500,000.....	3,930	3,930	3,920
1,000.....	180	180	180	1,000,000.....	5,550	5,540	5,520
2,500.....	280	280	280	5,000,000.....	12,240	12,130	11,870
5,000.....	390	390	390	10,000,000.....	17,020	16,680	15,920
10,000.....	560	560	560	25,000,000.....	25,460	24,010	20,530
25,000.....	880	880	880	50,000,000.....	32,290	27,490	11,650

Table G.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE (Range of 2 chances out of 3)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage							
	3,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000	500,000	5,000,000
2 or 98.....	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
5 or 95.....	2.2	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1
10 or 90.....	3.0	2.4	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	4.4	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.1
50.....	5.1	3.9	2.8	1.8	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.1