

GENERAL REPORT—STATISTICS BY SUBJECTS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Fifteenth Census Reports on Population.—The results of the count of the population returned in the 1930 census were first published in a series of State bulletins (Population, First Series) which gave the total population alone for the State and for all of its political subdivisions, including counties, townships, cities, and other incorporated places. These figures were based upon a hand count of the names returned on the schedules. As the first group of machine tabulations were completed the results were made up into another series of State bulletins (Population, Second Series) giving the population classified by color, nativity, sex, age, etc.; these data were presented in some detail for areas as small as incorporated places of 1,000 or more inhabitants.

The major part of the results of the tabulation of gainful workers by occupation were presented in a third series of State bulletins, these containing figures for the State and for all cities of 25,000 or more. The results of the family tabulation were presented in a fourth series of State bulletins, giving statistics of families for the State by counties and for incorporated places of 2,500 or more. A series of State bulletins was also issued presenting the statistics of unemployment.

Upon the completion of each of these series of State bulletins, a United States summary bulletin was published, giving for the United States figures corresponding to those shown by States, and, in addition, a number of convenient summary tables presenting the more important facts in condensed form by States and for the larger cities.

These five series of State bulletins make up the major part of Volumes I, III, IV, and VI of the Population Reports and Volume I of the Unemployment Reports, as outlined below. The separate chapters presenting statistics by subjects, which make up Volumes II and V, have likewise been published as separate bulletins.

The statistics for the outlying territories and possessions have been published in separate bulletins corresponding approximately to those issued for the States, with modifications where necessary, especially for the smaller areas. All of these reports have been consolidated and are published in a volume entitled "Outlying Territories and Possessions."

The Fifteenth Census statistics of population, including unemployment, for continental United States occupy eight volumes, as follows:

Volume I gives the number of inhabitants for the United States by States and counties and for all of their recognized political subdivisions, including townships and other similar minor civil divisions, as well as incorporated places. This volume is the only one of the series here described which contains data for the outlying territories and possessions. Volume I is made up of the First Series Population Bulletins, including a United States summary, which contains figures for the population classified as urban and rural, in addition to summarizing the totals for the United States as a whole and presenting lists of cities and other incorporated places arranged according to size, for convenient reference.

Volume II, while it gives no figures for counties or for the smaller cities, presents the statistics for States and for cities of 25,000 or more in greater detail than any of the other volumes. The material in this volume is arranged by subjects, each subject being presented, first, in a series of summary tables for the United States, then in a series of tables for States, in tables for urban, rural-farm, and rural-nonfarm population, and finally in tables for individual cities. It contains all of the published material on certain subjects, namely, State of birth of the native population; mother tongue of the foreign-born white population; year of immigration, and ability to speak English; and for many of the subjects covered in briefer fashion in Volume III it presents additional significant details. Age, for example, is shown by single years; marital condition and illiteracy are classified by age; and many of the statistics of the foreign-born white are presented by country of birth.

Volume III presents statistics for States, counties, cities, and townships, classified in varying degrees of detail by such characteristics as color, nativity, sex, age, marital condition, citizenship, etc. It contains three important features not included in the corresponding volumes of recent prior censuses. First, a detailed presentation of age by color, nativity, and sex, for counties; second, a series of tables showing the gainful workers in each county classified by sex and industry groups. Not even the number of gainful workers has heretofore been available by counties. Third, a presentation of the population by townships, classified by sex, by color and nativity, and by age. This volume is made up of the Second Series State bulletins bound together, with a United States sum-

mary of the same series. It is published in two parts, Part 1 covering the States from Alabama to Missouri, and Part 2, the States from Montana to Wyoming.

Volume IV presents the occupation data by States, including a table in which the workers in the more important occupations in the State are classified by color and nativity and by age. For each State there is presented a special section on children in gainful occupations and one on gainfully employed women, in which special stress is placed on the classification according to marital condition. This volume is made up of the State bulletins on Occupations, supplemented by a summary bulletin for the United States which gives many convenient summary tables besides presenting the United States totals.

Volume V contains a more detailed discussion of the method of classifying gainful workers according to occupation, a presentation of the occupation data by subjects (comprising sex, color and nativity, age, marital condition of occupied women, and children in gainful occupations), which is largely a rearrangement and amplification of data presented in *Volume IV*; and, finally, a section showing the gainful workers in each industry classified by occupation. This last section represents a very complicated tabulation, the results of which are presented in the form of United States totals only. A similar tabulation was presented in the reports for 1910,¹ but nothing of this kind was attempted in 1920.

Volume VI presents the more important of the results of the tabulation of data relating to families, including classifications by tenure of home, color and nativity and age of head of family, value or rental of home, size of family, number of children, number of gainful workers, number of lodgers, and employment status of home-maker. It contains also the statistics of dwellings, these being classified according to the number of families in each. This volume is made up of the State bulletins on families, preceded by a United States summary.²

Unemployment, Volume I contains the results of the first group of tabulations of the unemployment returns. Most of the data are presented for class A (persons out of a job, able to work, and looking for a job) and class B (persons having jobs but on leave without pay, excluding those sick or voluntarily idle), these two groups being classified by color, nativity, and age, by period of idleness, by reason for idleness, by family relationship, and by industry groups corresponding to those shown for gainful workers in *Volume III* of the Population Reports. This volume is made up of the State bulletins on unemployment, supplemented by a United States summary bulletin.

Unemployment, Volume II presents more detailed tabulations of the unemployment returns. It includes, in particular, a tabulation by occupation, far more detailed than the industry group tabulation, in which the numbers of unemployed, both class A and class B, are compared with the whole number of gainful workers returned in the same occupation. It contains also the results of the special census of unemployment taken in 19 cities in the month of January, 1931.

Census date.—Section 6 of the Fifteenth Census Act provided that the enumeration of the population should be made as of April 1, 1930. The date of the Fourteenth Census was January 1, 1920, and that of the Thirteenth Census was April 15, 1910; at previous censuses, beginning with that of 1830, the date to which the enumeration related, was June 1; and from 1790 to 1820 the census date was the first Monday in August. The change from April 15, in 1910, to January 1, in 1920, was made in deference to the wishes of the Department of Agriculture and the various interests making use of agricultural statistics. The weather during January proved to be a serious handicap to the enumerators, however, especially in the Northern States, and for this and other reasons the date was again changed in 1930 to April 1. Except as regards the classification of the population by occupation, and perhaps the classification as rural and urban or farm and nonfarm, the difference in the date probably has little effect on the statistics of population. The number of persons on farms in April of any year is somewhat larger than the number in January; and, in particular, the number of persons who will be returned as engaged in agricultural occupations will be somewhat larger in the spring than in the middle of the winter.

The work of actual enumeration began on April 2, 1930. Enumerators in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more, where the work consisted mainly of the enumeration of the population, were required to complete their canvass within two weeks from the date of beginning; and the enumerators in the smaller towns and villages and in the country districts, partly because of the greater area which they had to cover and partly because they collected data on agriculture as well as on population, were allowed 30 days. By far the larger part of the work of the enumerators was completed before the end of April, though in individual districts here and there throughout the country, extensions of time were granted, and some of the work of enumeration was done in the month of May.

Enumeration at usual place of abode.—For the country as a whole and for every State and every political subdivision within the State, the population enumerated is the resident (*de jure* rather than *de facto*) population. The enumerators, under the census law, were instructed to enumerate all persons at their "usual place of abode"—that is, at their permanent

¹ Vol. IV of the Thirteenth Census Reports, Table IV.

² Additional details with respect to families, whose tabulation was not completed in time for their inclusion in the regular census reports, are to be presented in a series of supplemental bulletins or special studies.

homes or regular lodging places. Hence, persons were not in all cases counted in the places where they happened to be found by the enumerator; in particular, they were not by any means all counted in the place where they transacted their daily business. Thus it happens that the business or industrial population of all important cities includes considerable numbers of persons who are not counted as a part of their census population. Such persons transact their daily business or perform their daily work, spend a considerable proportion of their incomes, and perhaps even eat all or a part of their meals in these cities, but have their lodging places outside the municipal limits and are there enumerated.

Persons temporarily absent from their usual places of abode—for example, on visits, on business, traveling for pleasure, attending school or college, or sick in hospitals—were enumerated at the places where they habitually reside, information regarding them being obtained from members of their families or from acquaintances. Persons having no fixed place of abode anywhere, however, were enumerated at the place where they were found by the enumerator, arrangements usually being made to enumerate the whole floating population in a given city on one specified day in order to avoid duplication. Special arrangements were made, involving the use of what was termed an "absent family schedule," for obtaining the correct census returns where whole families were absent from their usual place of abode at the time of the enumeration.

The Fifteenth Census Act.—The Fifteenth Census was taken under an act approved June 18, 1929, which incorporated certain modifications of the Fourteenth Census Act, though it followed the same general plan. This act, which was entitled, "An Act to provide for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress," designated the three years beginning with the first day of January in the decennial year as the "Decennial Census Period," and provided for an expansion during that period of the force of the permanent Census Bureau in Washington, and for the creation of a special field force to collect the census data. It contained also (as none of the previous census acts had done) a definite provision for reapportionment of representation in the House of Representatives on the basis of the census returns.

The subjects covered by the Fifteenth Census included all the principal subjects covered by the Fourteenth Census except manufactures, which was taken in 1930 under the regular authorization for the biennial census of manufactures. The Fifteenth Census thus included the traditional subjects of population, agriculture (including irrigation and drainage), and mines and quarries, and in addition, two important new subjects, namely, distribution, which was handled by

a new main division of the Census Bureau, set up for the purpose, and unemployment, which was handled in connection with the census of population.

The specific questions to be covered by the census of population were not stated in the law, but were left to be determined by the Director of the Census, with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce. In accordance with this provision a general population schedule was prepared, a copy of which appears as Appendix A. This was supplemented by an unemployment schedule, a copy of which appears as an appendix to Volume II of the Unemployment Reports. All of the information used in the population census was obtained from these two schedules, including the data for the special tabulation relating to families, though the family information was first taken off on an intermediate sheet called a family transcription sheet.

The census enumerators were supplied with printed instructions as to the method of filling out the schedule and as to the manner of determining what persons should, and what persons should not, be enumerated in their respective districts. A copy of these instructions is presented as Appendix B.

The actual tabulation was made through the use of three sets of punched cards. The general population card carried all of the information relating to individuals, including industry and occupation for gainful workers; the family card, punched from the transcription sheet referred to above, contained all the information relating specifically to families, including the number of dwellings and the tenure of homes; and the unemployment card contained the information from the unemployment schedule.

Explanatory text.—The various chapters in this volume contain very little text other than that of an explanatory character which might be needed to enable the reader to understand fully the data presented in the statistical tables. Practically no attempt has been made at analytical or interpretative discussion of the figures, since such discussion would have involved considerable delay in the publication of the results of the Fifteenth Census.

Geographic divisions.—In addition to the presentation by States, statistics are given for nine groups of States which are designated "Geographic divisions." (See map, p. VI.) The States comprising each of these divisions are for the most part fairly homogeneous in physical characteristics as well as in the characteristics of their population and in their social and economic conditions, whereas each division differs more or less sharply from most of the others in these respects. Even in tables where no totals are shown for the geographic divisions the States are usually arranged in the order required for their grouping into divisions. The advantage of this geographic arrangement lies chiefly in the ease with which comparisons can be made between

States in the same section and between a group of States in one part of the country representing one set of conditions and another group of States representing another set of conditions.

Comparative and derivative figures.—For each subject covered by this volume there is presented a summary table for the United States as a whole giving statistics from all earlier censuses at which comparable data were compiled. Where there were material differences in method of collecting statistics or other factors affecting their comparability, these are explained in notes. In the main, however, the presentation of

comparative statistics is limited, partly as a matter of economy in space, to the last two or three censuses. The distribution of the population under all of the important classifications is shown in the form of percentages, which are often of great assistance in comparing the data for different areas or for different census years.

Maps and diagrams.—Besides the map of the United States showing the geographic divisions, there are included a considerable number of maps and diagrams which present graphically the more important statistical items brought out in the various chapters.