SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

THE LABOR FORCE

(Sample Statistics)

Part I: General Characteristics

Bureau of the Census
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Prepared under the supervision of
Dr. LEON E. TRUESDELL
Chief Statistician for Population

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1943
THE LABOR FORCE (SAMPLE STATISTICS)

This volume is comprised of two parts, with the reports arranged as follows:

Part 1. General Characteristics:
- Employment and Personal Characteristics
- Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force
- Employment and Family Characteristics of Women
- Wage or Salary Income in 1939
- Education, Occupation, and Household Relationship of Males 18 to 44 Years Old

Part 2. Occupational and Industrial Characteristics:
- Industrial Characteristics
- Occupational Characteristics
- Usual Occupation
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REPORTS ON POPULATION

Volume
I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data).

Additional Reports—Internal Migration, Families (Including Housing Data), Fertility, Parentage, Mother Tongue, Further Statistics on The Labor Force, etc.

Special Reports.

REPORTS ON HOUSING

I Data for Small Areas, by States.
Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
IV Mortgages on Owner-Occupied Nonfarm Homes, by States.

Special Reports.
FOREWORD

Sampling techniques were utilized in the Sixteenth Decennial Census for the first time in the history of the Population Census. The use of sampling methods permitted the collection of statistics on a larger number of inquiries than had heretofore been possible, the release of preliminary population statistics at an early date, and the tabulation of a great many social and economic characteristics of the population at a relatively low cost.

This report is based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the population returns and presents an analysis of the principal relationships between employment of individuals and their personal characteristics and family relationships. These statistics show some of the most important factors affecting the size and character of the supply of labor in the United States, and the degree to which it was utilized during a period of widespread unemployment. This report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief Statistician for Population, and Dr. A. Ross Eckler, Assistant Chief Statistician, by William H. Mautz, Chief of Economic Statistics, and Dr. John D. Durand, Employment Analyst. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.
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EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

INTRODUCTION

This report presents detailed national and regional data on employment and unemployment according to personal characteristics and household relationships, based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken in April 1940. Statistics on employment status and hours worked during the census week (that is, the week of March 24 to 30, 1940), months worked in 1939, duration of unemployment, class of worker, and major occupation group are presented for all workers by age, sex, color, and marital status, and on class of worker, hours worked in the census week, months worked in 1939, and duration of unemployment by sex and color; together with statistics on occupation, industry, and wage or salary income in 1939. Additional statistics on personal characteristics of the labor force are presented in Volume IV of the Reports on Population, entitled "Population Characteristics by Age," which includes data on employment status, and on school attendance of employed workers, by age, sex, color, and marital status (in selected areas), for States and cities of 100,000 or more. Condensed labor force statistics for cities and other urban places, metropolitan districts, and counties are given in Volume II of the Reports on Population, entitled "Characteristics of the Population," which includes data on employment status, class of worker, major occupation group, and industry group, by sex and by color in selected areas. Labor force data for families are presented in the series of reports published under the general title, "Families," based on tabulations of samples of the returns of the 1940 Census of Population and Housing. Among the reports in this series which present labor force statistics are the following: "Occupational Characteristics: Statistics for heads of families by employment status, major occupation group, and other characteristics; and for families classified according to family employment status, labor force status of children 14 to 17 years old, class of family income, family wage or salary income in 1939, and other characteristics; for States, cities of 100,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more. "Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for families classified by characteristics of the family and of the head, for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more."

Areas: Most of the statistics in this report are presented separately for the United States and for the following regions: (a) the Northeastern States; (b) the North Central States, comprising the East North Central and West North Central Divisions; (c) the South, comprising the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions; and (d) the West, comprising the Mountain and Pacific Divisions. In some cases figures for regions are omitted or are presented in condensed form because sampling variations are relatively large in the detailed cross-classifications for regions.

All of the statistics are presented separately for urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas. Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural, and is subdivided into the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, and the rural-farm population, which comprises the remaining rural population.

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, because larger sampling errors are to be expected in the more detailed cross-classifications for categories containing only a small number of persons. For this reason, some of the more detailed tables are presented for the United States only, and statistics for nonmetropolitan areas of the Northeastern States, the North Central States, and the West

Related reports.—This is one of a series of reports which will be published under the general title, "The Labor Force—Sample Statistics." These reports supplement the labor force data presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force." The titles of other reports in this series, with a brief summary of the subjects covered, are given below.

1 The 1940 Population Census schedule is reproduced in Part 1 of Volume IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population. The instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in these volumes.

2 At the time this report goes to press (June 1942) the reports referred to in this paragraph are in various stages of completion, and it is possible that changes may be made before publication.
DIAGRAM I.—EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 74 YEARS OLD, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

(Based on smoothed age distributions)

- EMPLOYED (EXCEPT ON PUBLIC EMERGENCY WORK)
- SEEKING WORK AND ON PUBLIC EMERGENCY WORK
- NOT IN LABOR FORCE

SOURCE: TABLE I
have been omitted from most of the tables. All of the statistics presented for the United States are available, however, in unpublished form for each region.

Some of the data are presented only for employed persons; these data have been tabulated separately for persons aged 14 years and over for persons on public emergency work and for persons on public emergency work. Statistics on duration of unemployment are available for persons on public emergency work and for new workers, by age, although only the data for women and wage or salary workers have been published. Tabulations of months worked in 1950 by age, which are presented here only for the total of wage or salary workers (excluding those on public emergency work), are available for each class of persons by employment status during the census year. In the published tables, the number of months worked in 1950 by age, for each class of persons by employment status during the census year. In the published tables, the number of months worked in 1950 by age, for each class of persons by employment status during the census year, is less than 50; in most of the tables includes classifications by age. The area classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years. In the published tables, the number of persons included in the age classifications is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1950, that is, age in completed years.

The labor force status of the population in March 1960, by single years of age from 14 to 74, is illustrated in diagram 1. In the table, the number in the labor force was very small at ages 14 through 24, grew larger in the succeeding ages, and constituted a majority of the male population at 18 years of age. At age 20 only a small group of males remained out of the labor force. At age 50, the labor force was only 10.8 percent of the male population, and the number of males not in the labor force was small, consisting mostly of disabled men and inmates of institutions. At ages 60, the number of men not in the labor force grew slightly lower at each succeeding age, as the proportion of men married or not married increased or moved out of the labor market by old age or disability. At age 74 years of age only a very small number of men remained in the labor force.

In the female population, the number in the labor force reached a maximum at 20 years, at which age nearly half of the women were in the labor force. After age 24, the female labor force was smaller in each successive year of age, as increasing numbers of women entered the labor force. At age 45 only one-third as many women were in the labor force as at age 20, and in the age 65 and over the labor force included only a very small number of women.

In rural-labor areas, boys and girls tend to enter the labor force at an earlier age than in urban areas. For males 15 years old, for example, the proportion of labor force in March 1960, was 39.8 percent in rural-labor areas, and only 4.5 percent in urban areas (table 1). This difference is attributable partly to a tendency for young people to leave school earlier in rural than in urban areas, and partly to the comparatively greater need for boys and girls to do part-time work while they are still in school. Nearly half of the population under 20 years of age in the rural-labor force were unpaid family workers, many of whom were employed only part-time after school hours.

For farm women between 17 and 67 years of age the proportion in the labor force was lower than for women in nonfarm communities. At each successive age, the proportion of women in the labor force was highest at age 20, when 55.8 percent of the labor force was made up of women. The labor force was 38.7 percent of rural-nonfarm, and 28.9 percent of rural-farm women were in the labor force. These differences are due partly to the relatively limited opportunities for the full-time employment of women in farming areas, partly to the more arduous household duties of women on farms, and partly to the larger numbers of children in farm families. A great many women in farming areas, of course, are engaged in some extent in farm work, if only in minor chores, and many of them are seasonal workers who enter the labor force for full-time work at certain times of the year. The departure of men from the labor force because of disability and retirement begins earlier and proceeds more rapidly in urban and rural-nonfarm areas than in the farm population. In the farm-grown group of middle-aged men, 71.7 percent of the urban males were still in the labor force, but 82.1 percent of the rural-farm men in this age group were still workers. The point at which no more than half of the men remained in the labor force was age 55 in the farm group and age 60 in the nonfarm group, not until 75 years on the farms (table 1). This difference can be attributed largely to the fact that opportunities for employment of older workers in agriculture are relatively good, especially in rural-nonfarm areas, where many can continue to work in advanced age to operate their farms, with the help of their families or by means of hired labor.

Certain difficulties in the labor force classification of women, children, and aged persons are considered in
The labor force—sample statistics

The household composition of the population plays a large part in determining the normal size of the labor force. The normal role of an individual as a breadwinner, a homemaker, or a dependent is often fixed so rigidly by his age and family relationship that it cannot easily be adjusted to changes in labor force patterns. The characteristics of the individual and his relationship to the head of the household in which he lived. The following relationship categories are shown in the tables in this report:

(1) Head of the household—The term "private household," as used in the 1940 census, includes the related family members and the unrelated lodgers, servants, or hired hands who live in the same dwelling unit and share common household arrangements. A person living alone, or a group of unrelated persons sharing the same living quarters as "partners" is also counted as a private household. A family residing permanently or for an indefinite period in an apartment hotel is counted as a private household. One person in each private household was designated as the household head, that is, the person regarded as the head by the members of the household. A private household is usually a married man and the chief breadwinner or "economic head" of the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household. If both husband and wife were present in the household, the husband rather than the wife was designated as the head. Some heads were living alone, who may have had no dependents, and some were unrelated individuals sharing living accommodations with "partners."

(2) Wife of head. — This category comprises the wives of households.

(3) Other relative. — This group includes sons, daughters, parents, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and other persons (except wives) related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the head of the household. The household is usually a married man and the chief breadwinner or "economic head" of the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household. If both husband and wife were present in the household, the husband rather than the wife was designated as the head. Some heads were living alone, who may have had no dependents, and some were unrelated individuals sharing living accommodations with "partners."

(4) Not related to head.—This category comprises lodgers, servants, and other persons living in a private household but not related to the household head.

(5) Not in private household.—This category comprises persons living in public institutions, such as prisons, mental hospitals, and other nonresidential institutions. The census of 1940 was the first taken under conditions that made it possible to count the number of individuals in the various households in which the person was enumerated. The group "married, spouse absent" consists of married persons whose spouses were not living in the same household at the time of the census. The latter group includes, therefore,
INTRODUCTION

The number of married persons whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose husbands or wives were left abroad, husbands or wives of persons enumerated as inmates of insane asylums, and married persons whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their husbands or wives, including soldiers, sailors, men in labor camps, etc., and their wives. In most of the tables in this report, married persons who were widowed, divorced, or separated with widowed and divorced persons, since separated spouses are likely to be more or less financially independent.

The number of men classified as married with wife present was slightly greater than the number of women classified as married with husband present. The difference is due partly to the presence of some wives under 14 years of age, who are not included in the tabulations shown in this report; but it is due mainly to minor errors in the processing of the returns. For similar reasons, the number of male heads of households classified as married with wife present was slightly greater than the number of women known as wives of household heads.

The number of women in the marital status category "married, husband present" is considerably greater than the number in the relationship group "wife of head." The difference is made up of married relations with husbands present, such as married daughters and married sisters-in-law of heads, and of married women not living in private households.

Labor force status of households and relationship groups.—The percentages in the labor force for persons in each relationship group, by age and sex, are summarized in table II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX AND HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>14 to 24 years</th>
<th>25 to 34 years</th>
<th>35 to 44 years</th>
<th>45 to 54 years</th>
<th>55 to 64 years</th>
<th>65 years and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>78.6 95.1</td>
<td>97.9 93.8</td>
<td>94.6 86.8</td>
<td>77.6 49.0</td>
<td>46.3 18.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of private household</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>85.6 97.7</td>
<td>98.6 97.8</td>
<td>91.8 48.6</td>
<td>51.8 40.6</td>
<td>40.6 28.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, wife present</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>76.9 90.6</td>
<td>96.5 92.0</td>
<td>89.0 52.8</td>
<td>38.1 26.8</td>
<td>18.4 11.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>88.4 95.2</td>
<td>97.5 94.4</td>
<td>92.0 53.6</td>
<td>60.1 40.6</td>
<td>38.4 26.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>61.6 77.0</td>
<td>90.9 75.8</td>
<td>77.4 55.2</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of private household</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>67.8 80.7</td>
<td>84.2 78.8</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>76.4 89.0</td>
<td>86.0 80.3</td>
<td>70.6 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>61.6 77.0</td>
<td>90.9 75.8</td>
<td>77.4 55.2</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not related to head, or not in</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>67.0 85.5</td>
<td>90.9 75.8</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private household</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>59.9 71.4</td>
<td>84.2 70.6</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single</strong></td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>68.5 78.5</td>
<td>81.3 71.0</td>
<td>64.0 41.6</td>
<td>37.0 27.0</td>
<td>12.0  8.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, widowed, or divorced</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>76.4 89.0</td>
<td>86.0 80.3</td>
<td>70.6 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>68.5 78.5</td>
<td>81.3 71.0</td>
<td>64.0 41.6</td>
<td>37.0 27.0</td>
<td>12.0  8.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wife</strong></td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>59.9 71.4</td>
<td>84.2 70.6</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of household</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>49.6 64.1</td>
<td>74.6 63.6</td>
<td>55.6 40.6</td>
<td>30.8 20.8</td>
<td>15.8 11.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>67.0 85.5</td>
<td>90.9 75.8</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>59.9 71.4</td>
<td>84.2 70.6</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not related to head</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>59.7 70.5</td>
<td>83.5 71.0</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in private household</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>59.7 70.5</td>
<td>83.5 71.0</td>
<td>70.3 52.8</td>
<td>41.5 30.5</td>
<td>21.6 14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The great majority of the men between the ages of 18 and 64 in all relationship groups were in the labor force, but the proportion in the labor force was greatest for married heads of households with wife present. The percentage of such heads in the labor force was in the neighborhood of 90 percent in the age groups between 18 and 44 years: in the groups under 18 and 45 and over it was much greater than the corresponding figure for males in other relationship categories. The high proportions in the labor force among married heads were probably due partly to the necessity for men no longer in the labor force to be reported as relatives, instead of household heads, if there were other workers in the family.

Only 78.5 percent of the male heads who were single, widowed, divorced, or married with wife absent from the household were in the labor force during the census week. Most of those who were not in the labor force were probably disabled men supporting their children or other relatives, and the aged men living on pensions or other independent income. The proportion of such men in the labor force is probably subject to some change in response to variations in the condition of the labor market, but the labor is not large enough to affect greatly the total labor force.

Unmarried sons and other unmarried relatives of heads were the only important group in the male population in which there were many in the labor force. In the 4,723,600 male relatives 14 to 17 years old, 18.4 percent were in the labor force, and many of these had only part-time jobs while they were attending school. Of the 5,602,690 unmarried male relatives 18 to 24 years old, 77.0 percent were in the labor force. The corresponding percentage of unmarried female relatives 14 to 17 years old in the male population is 16.2 percent, and 76.5 percent of the 6,001,030 unmarried female relatives 18 to 24 years old were in the labor force. The labor force participation of these two groups varied from year to year, but was generally lower than for household heads. Some sons and other male relatives of heads preponderate among the male relatives between the ages of 18 and 44. In the age groups 45 and over a considerable number of married men were active, reduced by disability. The proportion of the capacity to work of the men in the labor force is probably not greatly affected by changes in the demand for labor.

The employment of women is much more directly related to family status than that of men, since women's household duties tend to interfere with work outside of the home. The proportion in the labor force is higher for provision for the care of the children while they work.

For males who continued to live with their parents or other relatives, or who lived alone as heads of one-person families, the proportion in the labor force was not much smaller in the age group 18 to 24 years than in the age group 25 to 34 years. For all women taken as a total, however, the proportion in the labor force was progressively lower in each successive age group because of the larger proportions of wives in the upper age groups.

Wives of household heads were the principal reservoir of potential labor supply. In 1940 there were 56,565,663 wives of household heads whose children were in the labor force; over 40 percent were between 18 and 24 years of age. Almost all of these were heads of one-person families, who were available to enter the labor force unless they can make other homes. This limitation upon the labor supply is particularly important for wives under 35 years of age, who are most likely to have young children in their families. Almost all of the married women in the labor force 18 to 44 years of age were single as of 1940; hence, many of these children are in the present report entitled, "The Labor Force—Sample Statistics, Employment and Family Data of Women."

The proportion of married women in the labor force is probably subject to some change in response to variations in the condition of the labor market, but the labor is not large enough to affect greatly the total labor force.

Wives widowed, divorced, and other unmarried relatives of heads were a much smaller group, comprising only 3.5 percent of all house-
The high percentage in the labor force for women in the group, "not relative of head, or not in private household," is due partly to the fact that this group included servants "living in," all of whom were in the labor force.

## Trends in Size and Composition of the Labor Force

Major trends since the beginning of the century in the size of the national labor force and its personal characteristics are shown by a comparison of the proportions of persons in the labor force in various classes of the population in 1940 with similar data for gainful workers in 1920 and 1900. Although detailed comparative data from previous censuses are not included in this report, such comparisons for urban and rural areas and for regions can be made by reference to the publications of 1900 and earlier censuses. Limited comparisons by age, sex, color, and marital status are presented below.

### Comparability of 1940 data on the labor force with previous census data for gainful workers.

The 1940 data on the labor force are not directly comparable with the census statistics for gainful workers in 1920 and earlier years, partly because of differences in definitions and partly because of changes in the questions upon which the data were based. The gainful worker statistics were obtained by means of questions regarding occupation rather than employment status. "Gainful workers" were persons reporting themselves 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 census. The labor force is defined in the 1940 census on the basis of activity during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and includes only people who were at work, or who had looked for work in the preceding 12 months. "Seeking work" at the time of the census is defined in the 1940 census on the basis of activity during the week. The following are the most important types of persons for whom the 1940 labor force classification differs from the gainful worker classification in earlier censuses:

1. **Seasonal workers:** Persons not working nor seeking work at the time of the census were not included in the 1940 labor force. Such persons were counted as gainful workers in earlier censuses if they reported an occupation.

   In the 1940 census, persons not working nor seeking work were included in the labor force; most such persons were excluded from gainful workers in earlier censuses.

2. **Inmates of institutions:** In 1940, all inmates of certain types of institutions were excluded from the labor force. In earlier censuses such persons were counted as gainful workers if they did regular work in the institution.

   Inmates of institutions were included in the labor force in 1940. In earlier censuses many such persons reported their former occupations and were counted as gainful workers.

3. **Persons who were actually engaged in work and were not reported as gainful workers in the time of the 1940 census were not counted as such because they failed to answer the employment status questions; Likewise, in earlier censuses many persons who were actually gainful workers were not counted from the figures because they failed to report their occupations.

   These differences probably do not seriously affect the comparison of the total labor force in 1940 with the total number of gainful workers in 1920 and earlier years, since the groups classified as in the labor force but not counted as gainful workers at least partly offset the groups included among gainful workers that were excluded from the 1940 labor force. For particular age and sex classes of the population, however, the number reported as in the labor force in 1940 may have been far different from the number that could have been counted as gainful workers if the 1940 procedure had been used.

The 1940 labor force figures are restricted to persons 14 years old and over, whereas the number of gainful workers shown in earlier censuses included persons 10 years old and over. The number of workers 10 to 15 years old has become relatively small and no longer justifies the additional burden of enumeration and tabulation necessary to retain the 10-year age limit. In making comparisons between the 1940 labor force and gainful worker statistics in earlier census reports, the slight difference in age limits should be taken into consideration.

The statistics shown in this report for earlier censuses have been reduced to the age limits of the 1940 procedure.

Changes in census dates affect the comparison of 1940 data with those for earlier years. In 1900 the census was taken as of June 1, whereas in 1910 it was taken April 15, and in 1920, January 1. The census date in 1930 was April 1. These changes may have had a pronounced effect, especially in agricultural areas, on the size of the group returning as gainful workers.

### Labor force trend by age and sex

In 1940, 64.1 percent of the males 14 years old and over were reported as gainful workers; in 1940, only 75.1 percent were classified as in the labor force. The corresponding figures for females were 24.3 percent in 1940 and 25.8 percent in 1940. These differences indicate a change in the proportion of the population that desires to go into the labor force and an increase in participation in the labor market on the part of males and increases participation on the part of females (table III).

#### Table III. Percent of Population in the Labor Force, March 1940, and Percent Gainful Workers, 1900 and 1920, by Age and Sex, for the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age and Sex</th>
<th>1940</th>
<th>1920</th>
<th>changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>males, 14 and over...</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 20 years...</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 44 years...</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64 years...</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over...</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>females, 14 and over...</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 20 years...</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 44 years...</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64 years...</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over...</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For males in every age class, the percentage in the labor force in 1940 was below the corresponding percentage of gainful workers in 1920, but the difference was greatest among boys 14 to 20 and men 55 years of age and over. Sharp decreases in the proportions of workers among boys under 21 years old continued a long-term decline for this age group, which is associated with the extension of child-labor legislation and advancing educational standards. Even greater decreases for men 55 years of age and over represented a continuation of the trend toward earlier retirement, which has been in process for many decades.

For men between 25 and 44 years of age, the proportion in the labor force in 1940 was only slightly lower than the 1920 percentage of gainful workers. In previous decades, the percentage of men in this age class remained fairly constant, increasing very slightly between 1900 and 1930. The change between 1930 and 1940 for this group was probably due mainly to differences in the questions and definitions used.

The amount of time for which the group of men 55 years of age and over was also probably affected by differences in the questions and definitions used.

### Trends in the Negro labor force

In the nonwhite population, decreases between 1930 and 1940 in the proportion of workers were confined to the age classes 14 to 20 and 65 years of age and over. Substantial increases occurred in the age groups between 21 and 44 years, and slight increases in those between 45 and 64 years. These increases were in accord with the long-term trend toward increasing employment of women, which has been in progress for at least half a century. Among the factors associated with this trend are decreases in the birth rate, increase in urbanization, and the introduction of modern housekeeping aids.

### Trends in the nonwhite population

The percentages in the labor force decreased for males and for females, and the decrease for males was much greater than that in the white population. Of nonwhite males 14 to 19 years old in 1940, 14.7 percent were gainful workers in 1940 and only 60.0 percent were in the labor force in 1940; the corresponding percentages for whites were 83.7 in 1930 and 79.0 in 1940 (table IV). Sharp declines occurred in the percentages for nonwhite males 14 to 17 and 65 years old and over. The percentages for nonwhite males declined in all age classes except those between 25 and 34 years, in which the 1940 proportion in the labor force was about the same as the 1930 proportion of gainful workers. For white women, by contrast, the percentage increased in all of the age groups from 15 to 64 years.
These trends greatly reduced the differential between the two racial groups in the extent of participation in the labor market on the part of children, older men, and women 25 years old and over. The tendency toward equalization of the white and nonwhite percentages in the labor force was attributable partly to the migration of Negroes into urban areas, where the employment of children and aged workers is much less common than in rural areas. An important factor tending to reduce the differential for children 14 to 17 was the increase in school attendance of nonwhite children. On the other hand, the differences in the questions and definitions used in the two censuses may have affected the classification of nonwhites differently from that of whites.

Increase of married women in the labor force.—Increased employment of married women has been the principal source of the rise in the proportion of workers in the female population, which has continued at least since 1937. During the past thirty years of this century, the percentage of married women gainfully occupied more than doubled, rising from 5.5 percent in 1900 to 10.7 percent in 1930. There was also some increase in the employment of unmarried women. The proportion for single women 14 years old and over rose from 10.9 to 6.1 percent. 3

The influx of married women into the labor market continued at an even faster rate between 1930 and 1940 than in earlier decades. During this decade the proportion of workers among married women jumped from 11.7 to 15.2 percent. The acceleration of the historic trend was probably due mainly to further declines in the birth rate, and to the tendency toward smaller homes and the spread of household conveniences such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners, which greatly lighten the burden of housekeeping. Moreover, during this decade of large-scale unemployment, some married women may have been forced to work because their husbands lost their jobs.

Among single women, the proportion in the labor force in 1940 was about the same as the proportion of gainful workers in 1930.
The group seeking work is subdivided into experienced workers—those who regularly seek work; the latter being persons who had not previously worked full time for one month or more. (See “New workers,” below.)

Table 7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND RURAL AREAS: MARCH 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Rural-urban</th>
<th>Rural-farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total in labor force</td>
<td>65,966,200</td>
<td>85,125,800</td>
<td>9,707,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed (ess. on energy work)</td>
<td>48,301,300</td>
<td>63,710,900</td>
<td>9,043,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At work</td>
<td>49,301,300</td>
<td>63,710,900</td>
<td>9,043,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a job but not at work</td>
<td>3,857,000</td>
<td>3,762,300</td>
<td>20,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labor force</td>
<td>17,664,900</td>
<td>21,342,600</td>
<td>0,459,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On public emergency work</td>
<td>5,405,400</td>
<td>3,938,200</td>
<td>5,405,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced workers</td>
<td>5,405,400</td>
<td>3,938,200</td>
<td>5,405,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New workers</td>
<td>790,000</td>
<td>551,900</td>
<td>252,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total in labor force</th>
<th>100.0</th>
<th>100.0</th>
<th>100.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed (ess. on energy work)</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>73.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At work</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>73.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a job but not at work</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labor force</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On public emergency work</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced workers</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New workers</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The distribution of the labor force by employment status is shown in Table 7 for the United States and for rural and urban areas. During the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, 55.7 percent of the labor force in the United States was employed (except on public emergency work). The proportion employed was greatest in rural-farm areas, where 91.8 percent of the labor force were employed; only 84.7 percent of the urban, and 65.4 percent of the rural-nonfarm labor force were employed. The comparatively high percentages employed in the rural-farm labor force is attributable mainly to the fact that farmers and unpaid family farm workers are relatively free from the risk of complete unemployment.

There were 5,133,450 persons, or 9.7 percent of the labor force, who were seeking work during the census week. Of these, 3,615,850 were in urban areas, 1,048,040 were in rural-nonfarm, and 467,820 were in rural-farm areas. The geographical distribution of persons seeking work was affected by migration of unemployed workers. Some of the persons seeking work in urban areas, and probably also some of those in rural-nonfarm communities, had migrated from farms to look for jobs.

Misclassification of persons on public emergency work.—In the interpretation of the data for persons on public emergency work, allowance must be made for the misclassification in the census returns of considerable numbers of public emergency workers. The number of persons reported in the census as on public emergency work in the United States was 4,696,000 (complete count of the census returns) was 5,820,606, whereas the number recorded on the pay rolls of the Federal emergency work agencies at the time of the census was 5,011,500, excluding the NYA Student Work Program, and 3,377,978 including that program. The amount of misclassification varied greatly from State to State. Among the factors that were responsible for the misclassification were confusion on the part of the enumerators and respondents regarding the classification of certain types of public emergency work, and reluctance on the part of some persons to report that they were on emergency work.

The most common type of misclassification was the reporting of emergency workers as “at work” rather than as “on public emergency work.” Persons on the NYA Student Work Program were very frequently reported as returned in school and not in the labor force. There is also evidence that a considerable number of emergency workers were classified as seeking work. Since the amount of misclassification undoubtedly differed considerably among regions and age and sex groups, the census data on characteristics and household relationships of persons on public emergency work should be used with caution.

Number of unemployed.—The total number of unemployed, as usually defined, includes (1) persons seeking work and without any form of public or private employment; and (2) those on public emergency work programs not classified as unemployed. Because of the misclassification of public emergency workers, the census total of these two groups understates the amount of unemployment. More satisfactory figures can be obtained only by using the number of persons on pay rolls of the Federal emergency work agencies at the time of the census. This procedure (using the number of persons seeking work shown by the complete census as the basis for computing the unemployment rate) yields a total of 6 million unemployed during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, if persons on the NYA Student Work Program are excluded, or 6,471,795 if the persons on that program are regarded as unemployed.

These unemployment figures tend to be underestimated by the number of persons on State or local emergency work programs (for which adequate statistics could not be obtained), and by the number of unemployed persons among those whose employment status was not reported. In addition, they tend to overstate the extent that some of the agency pay-roll figures apply to a period longer than a single week, and to the extent that some workers on emergency work are classified as seeking work. The available evidence on the importance of these factors indicates that their net effect upon the total volume of unemployment was small.

New workers.—Persons seeking work are subdivided into experienced workers and new workers, the latter being persons who had not previously worked full time for one month or more at a single job. Persons seeking work for whom a report on work experience was lacking were classified as experienced workers. New workers represent a serious problem in periods of large-scale unemployment, because lack of work experience is one of the chief handicaps to gain a foothold in the labor market at such times. The total seeking work in March 1940, included 4,601,950 experienced workers and 750,900 new workers; practically all of the latter were under 25 years of age (Table 16). The largest percentage of the new workers is found in urban areas; in rural-farm areas only six-tenths of one percent of the labor force were new workers seeking work, since most farm youths had had opportunity to gain experience on the home farm.

Experienced labor force.—Some of the tables in this report present data for the experienced labor force, which includes employed persons, persons unemployed, and persons seeking work other than new workers.

Personnel characteristics of employed and unemployed workers.—The relationship between age and unemployment at the time of the census is illustrated in diagram 2, which shows the percentages seeking work and on public emergency work for various age groups of the labor force. The impact of unemployment was most severe upon young people and upon those approaching the age of retirement. The proportion unemployed was greatest for persons 16 and 17 years old; 35.4 percent of the labor force in this age group were reported as seeking work or on public emergency work at the time of the census. Of the persons under 20 who were new workers who had never held a full-time job for one month or more. Of persons 55 to 64 years old in the labor force, 14.6 percent were unemployed. Unemployment rates were correspondingly lower among the aged (55 years and over). The age differences in unemployment rates reflect the difficulties encountered by inexperienced young workers trying to gain a foothold in the labor market during this period, and by older workers handicapped in the competition for jobs by old age and disability.

A considerable amount of unemployment among young people is almost inevitable in the process of leaving school and entering the labor force, even in times of relatively full employment. At the time of the 1940 census, the number of persons annually entering the labor force, at each single year of age in the group 14 to 15 years, exceeded the number who found jobs at that age, so that the number reported as seeking work or on public emergency work was greater for each successive age (diagram 1). The turning point was reached at age 25, when the increase in the number of persons who entered unemployment exceeded the increase in the labor force, so that the number seeking work or on public emergency work was less than in the preceding year of age.

From 20 to about 35 years of age, the number of males unemployed grew smaller in each succeeding age. Between the ages of 35 and 55, it remained almost constant, but since the number of persons in the labor force was smaller in each successive age, the unemployment formed a growing proportion of the labor force. Between about 55 and 65 years, the number of unemployed men began to decrease from age to age, but the number in the labor force also decreased, so that the unemployment continued to increase as a percentage of the labor force. After about age 65, the age-to-age decrease in unemployment exceeded the
INTRODUCTION

DIAGRAM 2.—PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE SEEKING WORK AND ON PUBLIC EMERGENCY WORK, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

DIAGRAM 3.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY CLASS OF WORKER FOR THE EXPERIENCED LABOR FORCE, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

$54235 0 - 43 - 2$
decrease in the labor force, so that both the number and the proportion unemployed declined to small figures at ages over 70.

The unemployed do not include older men who had given up the search for work because they could not compete with younger workers. Men who lost their jobs at 60 or 65 retired from the labor force, so that at the upper limit of the age scale, the labor force was composed almost exclusively of younger workers. The majority of those who were unemployed and self-employed persons not subject to such age restrictions.

For women, the variations in unemployment from age to age were somewhat different from those for men, because women tend to leave the labor force at earlier age. The majority of the women in the labor force, employed and unemployed alike, were under 30 years of age. Between 30 and 60 years, the number of unemployed women gradually smaller at successive age levels, and by age 65 at an almost constant proportion of the female labor force. At ages 60 and over, the decreases from the figures for ages 55 to 59 to in the number of women unemployed was greater than the decrease in the female labor force, so that the proportion of women unemployed fell off.

Unemployment rates were higher for nonwhites than for whites. Persons reported as seeking work or on public emergency work represented 15.6 percent of the nonwhite labor force, and 14.0 percent of the white (table 19). This differential in the incidence of unemployment in the two racial groups existed in spite of the fact that a relatively large part of the nonwhite population lives in farming areas, where it was comparatively easy to secure work. It is generally believed that nonwhites have a lower farm. The difference was much greater in urban areas, where 23.1 percent of the nonwhite and only 15.4 percent of the white labor force were reported as unemployed. In rural-farm areas the unemployment rate was lower for nonwhite workers than for whites.

Unemployment was especially severe among nonwhite workers in the North and in the rural areas of the North Central States, 35.8 percent of the nonwhite labor force were seeking work or on public emergency work, as compared with 13.7 percent for the whites (table 14). Nonwhites in Northern cities were handicapped in the competition for employment by the preference of most employers for white workers, and by their comparative lack of education and skill. Large proportions of them were colored workers and domestic service workers—occupations in which unemployment rates were comparatively high.

Household relationships of employed and unemployed workers—

Statistics on employment status of persons in the labor force by household relationships are given in this report in order to indicate the incidence of unemployment among workers with dependent. Additional information on this subject is presented in the publications giving statistics for families.

Unemployment was comparatively unimportant among household heads, most of whom were breadwinners responsible for supporting a family, and among self-supporting groups such as lodgers and other relatives of heads. Only 11.1 percent of the male heads of household in the labor force were reported as seeking work or on public emergency work, whereas the corresponding figure for male relatives of heads was 20.8 percent, and for female relatives 19.8 percent (table 19). The results in the labor force as a whole in the proportion unemployed was considerably lower for male heads who were married and living with their wives, of whom 10.7 percent were unemployed, than for other male heads, of whom 15.6 percent were unemployed (table 19).

These differences are attributable partly to the fact that most of the relatives of heads were young women, but by no means all of the differential was due to this factor, since the proportions unemployed in each separate age class were much higher for male relatives than for household heads. Special consideration for persons with dependents on the part of employers hiring and laying off workers was probably an important cause of the differences. Other factors were the relatively high proportion of employers and own-account workers among household heads, and differences in the occupational characteristics of workers in the various relationship categories.

Wives of household heads presented an exception to the range of comparatively high unemployment rates for the relationship groups composed primarily of dependents; only 6.3 percent of the wives in the labor force were reported as seeking work or on public emergency work. The figures for wives seeking work were probably reduced by a tendency on the part of some family makers to return wives to engaged in home household and not in the labor force, if they were at home and actually employed during the census week, neglecting the possibility that they might have been also seeking work.

The proportion of unemployed workers responsible for the support of dependents is an important consideration in the analysis of the economic impact of unemployment, and of the result-
nation of trade and industry. In urban areas, wage or salary workers formed 88.6 percent of the experienced labor force, and only 10.8 percent were employers and own-account workers (table 11). In rural-farm areas, own-account workers constituted 16.2 percent of the experienced labor force; in such areas there are many small merchants and independent blacksmiths, carpenters, repairmen, etc. In rural-farm areas, 49.7 percent of the labor force were male and 50.3 percent female; of the own-account workers, the great majority of whom were farmers; and 11.1 percent of the experienced labor force were unpaid family workers. In rural and rural-nonfarm areas the proportion of unpaid family workers was negligible.

In some cases it was difficult for enumerators to determine accurately the class of worker. Wage or salary workers in some occupations, such as salesmen working for commissions, were hard to distinguish from own-account workers, and on the basis of the form of compensation or of relationships with employers. Some enumerators tended to return as employers, employees such as executives, managers, and foremen, who were responsible for hiring and discharging other workers. Unpaid family workers were sometimes classified as own-account workers by enumerators who regarded all workers in the family enterprise as partners. The returns were carefully edited with reference to the occupation and industry returns and other information given on the schedule, but not all of the inaccuracies could be corrected.

The class-of-worker data should therefore be interpreted with some caution.

In the tables in this report, persons for whom class of worker was not reported have been included among private wage or salary workers, unless there was evidence to the contrary. In Volume II of this report (which is mimeographed) the shift from single to multiple employment, the number of employed persons for whom class of worker could not be determined was about 10,800, or 0.6 percent of the total employed, according to the complete count of the census returns.

The employment status of class-of-worker groups.—The risk of complete unemployment is far greater for wage or salary workers than for employers, own-account workers, and unpaid family workers because their group benefit only when they (or their relatives operating the family enterprise) are forced out of business. Thus 16.2 percent of the wage or salary workers in the United States were seeking work or on public emergency work during the census week, while only 0.2 percent of the employers and own-account workers and 1.5 percent of the unpaid family workers were seeking work (table 11). The comparative immunity of self-employed workers to total unemployment is reflected in the lower proportions of unemployment among self-employed workers in most industries than among employees; in most cases, self-employed workers have contributed to the profits of the family enterprise. Unpaid family work was often little better than a makeshift activity for sons and daughters of farmers and of other self-employed workers, who found no other employment. Because of these differences in unemployment risks, the class-of-worker composition of the labor force should be taken into account in the analysis of data on employment status.

The figures shown in table 11 do not provide the basis for a precise comparison of the employment rates for the various class-of-worker groups, because persons on public emergency work, who are by definition wage or salary workers, are included in the proportion employed for wage or salary workers, although some of these may have been employers, own-account workers, or unpaid family workers before they became unemployed. Allowing for this, the labor force included a smaller proportion of self-employed workers than of employees, and the contrast between the unemployment rates of wage or salary workers and other workers.

The importance of the relationship between the employment status distribution of the labor force and its class-of-worker composition is illustrated by table VII, which presents percentages of unemployed for the labor force in urban and rural areas, contrasted with the corresponding percentages for wage or salary workers.

In rural-farm areas the proportion of the total labor force reported in the census as unemployed was much smaller than in urban areas because the rural-farm labor force included a smaller proportion of salaried workers, and unpaid family workers. For wage or salary workers, the proportion reported as seeking work and on public emergency work in rural-farm areas was considerably larger in urban than in rural-farm areas. It should also be born in mind that the opportunity to work as an unpaid helper on the family farm when other work failed to provide for the family tends to reduce the volume of total unemployment in farming areas. Many of the unpaid family workers in rural-farm areas would have been engaged in other work if more paid jobs had been available on neighboring farms or in industry and trade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE SEEKING WORK OR ON PUBLIC EMERGENCY WORK</th>
<th>PERCENT OF WAGE OR SALARY WORKERS SEEKING WORK OR ON PUBLIC EMERGENCY WORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural-Farm</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal characteristics of class-of-worker groups.—There is a tendency for workers to shift from jobs as employees to independent work as employers and own-account workers as they grow older. This tendency is illustrated in diagram 5. Very few persons under 25 years were employed or own-account workers during the census week, but in the succeeding age groups the proportion of such workers was progressively larger, so that at ages 75 years and over they constituted 26.8 percent of the labor force. The shift in the distribution of wage and salary workers was from public emergency work in rural-farm areas, where the proportion of employers and own-account workers was 4.6 percent in the age group 14 to 19 years and 35.6 percent in the group 75 years old and over (table 11). In urban areas, the corresponding figures were 1.3 percent in the group 14 to 19 years and 35.6 percent in the group 75 years old and over. The shift was more marked for men than for women. In all of the age classes, the majority of the women in the labor force were wage or salary workers.

The high proportion of employers and own-account workers in the lowest age group was attributable mainly to shifts of individuals from jobs as employees to the operation of independent enterprises, but it was probably also due partly to the tendency for self-employed workers and employees to remain in the labor force longer than wage or salary workers.

Nonwhite workers tended to be employed as wage or salary workers, or as unpaid family workers, to a greater extent than whites; few nonwhites were employers or own-account workers. In urban areas, only 7.4 percent of the nonwhite experienced workers, as compared with 11.2 percent of the whites, were employers and own-account workers. In rural-farm areas, a smaller proportion of self-employed workers, and a much larger percentage of nonemployed family workers than the white labor force, unpaid family workers constituted 30.2 percent of the labor force, and white families in the rural-farm experienced labor force. The corresponding figures for males were 13.5 percent for nonwhites and 9.6 percent for whites. Most nonwhite farmers are engaged in relatively small farming operations, in which they rely to a large extent upon family labor.

Household relationships of class-of-worker groups.—The majorities of employers and self-employed workers are heads of households. Employers and own-account workers made up 38.4 percent of the male and 26.6 percent of the female heads of households who were employed (except on public emergency work) during the census week. The corresponding proportion for male relatives of heads was 12.4 percent; for wives of heads it was 11.0 percent, and for female relatives other than wives, only 4.4 percent (table 21). The proportion for employers and own-account workers to be heads of households is explained partly by the fact that both household heads and employers and own-account workers are groups composed primarily of older men, and partly by the fact that in a family enterprise, the person responsible for the operation of the business is likely to be regarded as the household head.

The distribution by household relationship of unpaid family workers differed markedly in urban and rural areas. In rural-farm areas, 91.2 percent of the unpaid family workers employed during the census week were sons, daughters, and other relatives (except wives) of heads; 8.2 percent were wives of heads. In urban areas, the employment of children in family enterprises was much less common; here wives of heads, chiefly the wives of retail store proprietors, made up 37.7 percent of the unpaid family workers.
the unpaid family workers. Although many housewives living on
farms are engaged at least to some extent in work connected
with the farming enterprise, relatively few of them were classi-
cified as unpaid family workers, because efforts were
made to return as many as possible of the non-wage workers
engaged only in occasional work or incidental chores. In addi-
tion, many housewives doing regular farm work may have been
reported as unpaid family workers by enumerators who neglected
to obtain full information.

A few heads of households are shown in the tables in this
report as unpaid family workers. Most of these are probably
affected by the latter kind of errors in enumeration and
in the coding and tabulation of the returns.

Occupations of workers in various household relationship
groups.— In order to give additional information regarding the
types of employment of workers in various household relation-
ship classes, data on major occupation group are presented in
this report for employed workers in each relationship group.
The 9 major occupation groups shown here are treated as sub-
divisions of the detailed occupational classification, comprising
451 specific occupation titles, which was used in the 1940 cen-
sus. The specific occupations in each of the major groups are
shown in the tables in Volume III of the Reports on Popula-
tion, entitled "The Labor Force."

Household heads are employed to a relatively large extent in
proprietorship, and in managerial or skilled-worker occupations.
The majority of the relatives of heads are clerical and sales
workers, semi-skilled operatives, domestic and other service
workers, and laborers (table 23). These occupational differ-
ences are related to differences in the age distribution of
workers in the various relationship categories. They were an
important factor contributing to the differences in employ-
ment rates during the census week among various household re-
lationship groups and among occupations.

Statistics on major occupation group for employed family
heads, classified according to characteristics of their fami-
lies, appear in the reports presenting statistics for families.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Two types of information relating to part-time employment
were obtained in the 1940 Population Census: (a) Hours worked
during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, for persons at work
(except on public emergency work) during that week, and (b)
months worked in 1939, for all persons 14 years old and over
(except those in institutions). The statistics on these sub-
jects presented here are designed to show the personal charac-
teristics and household relationships of part-time workers,
seasonal workers, and others intermittently employed. These
figures supplement the data on characteristics of persons who
were unemployed during the census week and give additional
information on the degree of utilization of available labor sup-
plies.

Hours worked during the census week.— Since the data on
hours worked in this report were obtained from the 40-hour
analysis of part-time employment, persons who worked 40 or
more hours during the census week, most of whom were presumably
employed full time, are presented as a single category. The
complete classification, showing hours worked for persons work-
ning 40 or more hours, is presented in the report entitled,
"The Labor Force-Home Statistics, Industrial Characteris-
tics."
The 44,403,740 persons who were at work (except on public
emergency work) during the census week, 7,400,880 were reported
as having worked less than 40 hours during the week (table 29).
Of these, 3,242,700 worked less than 20 hours, 2,028,460 worked
30 to 34 hours, and 2,028,460 worked 35 to 39 hours.

Several considerations affect the interpretation of these
figures as indications of the presence of part-time employ-
ment during the census week. In the first place, a consid-
erable number of persons working 35 to 39 hours, and some
of those working 30 to 34 hours, were full-time workers in indus-
tries and occupations that employed the full week, but who were
not available for work during the census week. In the second
place, many persons working only a few hours each week did not want more
work. In the third place, for some types of workers, such as professional
workers, business workers, and service workers, the number of hours worked
often could not be accurately determined, because such workers
did not usually follow regular schedules of work. Finally,
there were 2,751,650 persons at work during the census week
for whom the number of hours worked was not reported. For
these reasons, the data on hours worked give only a rough indica-
tion of the number of persons employed part time. Neverthe-
less, they probably give a reasonably accurate picture of the
personal characteristic of part-time workers.

Months worked in 1939.— The data on months worked in 1939
provide a measure of part-time work in terms of a full year,
taking account of seasonal and other intermittent employment
and of monthly variations in unemployment, which are not taken
into account in the weekly data. The number of persons in the labor force during the
census week. Information on work in 1939 was obtained for all
persons 14 years old and over (except those in institutions),
including persons not in the labor force as well as those who
were in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940.
The reports were made in terms of equivalent full-time weeks of
work for pay or profit, including public emergency work and unp-
related family work. All weeks were counted as the number
of hours locally regarded as full time for the given occupation
and industry. Paid vacations (except the summer vacations of
school teachers who did no other work during the summer),
and other absences with pay, were counted as full time. The actual total
of persons who had worked at some time during that year was prob-
ably somewhat greater than this figure, since information on
work in 1939 was not obtained for persons in institutions dur-
ing the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and since there were 11,314,860 persons
14 years old and over not in institutions for whom reports on this
subject were lacking. Most of the persons for whom months worked
were not reported, and the great majority of the 9,97,966
persons reported as not working in 1939, were not in the labor
force during the census week. There is evidence that, for per-
sons not in the labor force at the time of the census, the data
on work in 1939 were incomplete, and that many of those who
rang in the year were not in the labor force for all of that year, and
had actually been employed at some time in the year. (See the rep-
port entitled "Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor
Force.")

The group reported as having worked in 1939 was made up of
20,439,000 persons who worked twelve months and 20,34,660
who worked less than twelve months. Those who worked less than
the full year included persons who were seeking work at some time
in 1939; persons who expected to be employed part of the year;
new entrants into the labor force who began to work in 1939;
persons who became disabled, retired, or otherwise with-
drew from the labor force during that year; seasonal workers

* This lack of precision was evidenced by a marked tendency for
women who were married to report that they had maintained
the approximate number of months worked, and multiplied by four to
obtain the number of weeks. In converting the
returns to months, it was necessary to take account of the slight
weighting placed on the data on months,
4

The number of months worked in 1939 for persons 14 years old
and over, classified by employment status during the week of
March 24 to 30, 1940, are summarized in table V. There were
50,800,680 persons, representing 59.0 percent of the population
14 years old and over (excluding inmates of institutions), who
reported that they had worked in 1939, and who had worked
at least 12 months, 49.6 percent worked 11 to 14 weeks,
18.3 percent worked 15 to 22 weeks, 12.6 percent worked
23 to 34 weeks, and 8.1 percent worked 35 weeks or more.

The group of months worked that are used in this report are
listed below with their equivalents in terms of weeks worked as
reported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of months worked</th>
<th>Reported number of weeks worked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without work in 1939</td>
<td>0 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With work in 1939</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2 months</td>
<td>1 to 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>7 to 10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>11 to 14 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>15 to 22 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>23 to 34 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 8 months</td>
<td>35 to 48 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 11 months</td>
<td>49 to 60 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>61 to 72 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<td>0 weeks</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>49 to 60 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>61 to 72 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

Diagram 4.—Percent reporting less than 40 hours worked during the week of March 24-30, 1940, by hours worked, for persons at work, by age and sex, for the United States

Diagram 5.—Percent reporting less than 12 months work in 1939 by months worked, for persons who were wage or salary workers in March 1940, by age, for the United States

Source: Table 33
regularly employed for only a part of the year; and miscellaneous intermittent workers, such as women who took temporary jobs and withdrew from the labor market when not employed. Of the persons reported as having worked in labor force in 1939, 8.2 percent were not in the labor force during the census week.

Table XVIII. \textbf{Workers in 1939 by Persons 14 Years Old and Over (Excluding Persons in Institutions)}, by Employment Status in March 1940, for the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTHS WORKED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>EMPLOYED</th>
<th>UNEMPLOYED</th>
<th>SEEKING WORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IN LABOR FORCE</td>
<td>March 1940</td>
<td>IN LABOR FORCE</td>
<td>March 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>97,959,400</td>
<td>85,114,300</td>
<td>3,545,200</td>
<td>9,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>7,067,800</td>
<td>5,584,300</td>
<td>1,483,500</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 8 months</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 5 months</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 months</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 month</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>97,959,400</td>
<td>85,114,300</td>
<td>3,545,200</td>
<td>9,300,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The relationship between unemployment during the census week and idleness during the preceding year is illustrated by the fact that 84.6 percent of the persons seeking work at the time of the census reported that they had not worked, or had worked less than a full year in 1939; 33.4 percent reported no work in 1939 and 28.2 percent had worked, but less than six months. Of employed workers (excluding those on public emergency work), on the other hand, only 35.0 percent reported that they had not worked, or had worked less than twelve months, and only 5.4 percent reported no work in 1939.

These figures give only an approximate indication of the number of months during which the persons were unemployed in 1939, because of three complications. In the first place, the number of months in which the persons had worked in public emergency work, so that some of the persons reporting twelve months worked in 1939 may have been unemployed during the whole year. In the second place, some of the months in which persons did not work may have represented periods during which they were not in the labor force. Finally, months worked were to be reported in terms of equivalent full-time months, so that for persons working short hours the number of months worked in 1939 may have been less than the number of months during which they had some employment. The last consideration is especially important for persons on public emergency work, since the hours of work on public emergency projects were usually considerably less than those in nonemergency employment.

For employers, own-account workers, and unpaid family workers, data on months worked in 1939 are less significant and less reliable than those for wage or salary workers. For this reason, the detailed tables in this report showing months worked according to personal characteristics and household relationships are presented only for wage or salary workers (excluding those on public emergency work). Even for this class-of-worker group, the figures represent only an approximate statement of the amount of work in 1939. Accurate reports frequently could not be obtained from various workers on which to base time units for the separate times during the year. In many cases 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 amount of employment in 1939. The data for wage or salary workers, however, are believed to be accurate enough to provide a valid description of the characteristics of persons who worked only a part of the year 1939.

Personal characteristics of part-time workers.—The relationship between part-time employment and age is shown in diagram 4, in terms of hours worked by persons at work during the census week. The relationship between age and part-time work was similar to that between age and unemployment during the census week (diagram 2), except in the age groups 65 years and over. In these older groups, part-time employment tended to increase with advancing age, while employment declined because of retirements from the labor force.

The exceedingly high proportion of persons under 50 years of age who worked less than 200 hours during the census week was due largely to the employment of students in part-time jobs outside of school hours. The large proportion of wage or salary workers under 20 years old who worked less than three months in 1939 represents partly those employed school hours, partly those employed during school vacations, and partly young persons who had entered the labor force as full-time workers since the beginning of 1939.

Very few men 25 to 54 years of age were employed less than 200 hours during the census week or worked less than six months in 1939, but part-time work for women in these age groups was more common. Such women often held part-time jobs in stores, schools, etc., in addition to keeping house, and many of them were seasonal workers.

The relatively large proportions of persons engaged in intermittent and short-time employment at wages and hour was probably attributable mainly to a high incidence of temporary disabilities, and to physical handicaps which forced some older workers to work only a few hours a week, or a few weeks a month. The proportion of persons working less than 200 hours during the census week was also considerably greater among older than among younger workers (table 12).

Among nonwhite workers who were employed part-time, like the proportions unemployed, were considerably greater than among whites. Persons working less than 40 hours represented 19.6 percent of the nonwhites, as compared with 13.7 percent of the white males at work (except on public emergency work) during the census week (table 29). In the case of females, the difference was even greater; the percentages working less than 40 hours were 26.7 percent for nonwhites and 26.0 percent for white females.

Household relationships of part-time workers.—Part-time, seasonal, and other intermittent employment in 1939, like unemployment at the time of the census, was most common among workers who lived with those who employed them, and among the dependents of such employers. For example, 55.7 percent of the male relatives of household heads and 60.2 percent of the female relatives (other than working wives) were wage and salary workers at the time of the census, reported that they had not worked, or had worked less than twelve months in 1939. For male heads of households, the corresponding figure was only 56.4 percent (table 34). For wives of household heads, the proportion not working or working less than twelve months (51.7 percent) was even higher than for other female relatives although comparatively few wives were reported as unemployed during the census week. Statistics on hours of work during the census week were not tabulated by household relationship.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Data on duration of unemployment are shown in this report for wage or salary workers seeking work, by age, color, and sex. No data on the same groups were presented here for wage or salary workers seeking work, or for persons on public emergency work. For such workers, data on duration of unemployment are available for all groups, and tend to be similar to those for wage or salary workers seeking work; moreover, comparatively large proportions of the workers in these groups failed to report duration of unemployment.

Duration of unemployment for wage or salary workers seeking work represents the length of time (up to March 30, 1940) during which they had been seeking work or working on public emergency projects; that is, the length of time since the end of
the last full-time private or nonemergency Government job of one month or more.

Duration of unemployment was reported on the 1940 census schedule in terms of weeks, but in this report the data are presented in terms of months. The classes of duration of unemployment that are used, and their equivalents in terms of weeks as reported, are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration in months</th>
<th>Reported duration in weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 month</td>
<td>Under 3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>3 to 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>7 to 10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>11 to 14 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 and 5 months</td>
<td>15 to 23 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 8 months</td>
<td>24 to 35 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 11 months</td>
<td>36 to 49 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 23 months</td>
<td>50 to 99 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 to 35 months</td>
<td>100 to 149 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 69 months</td>
<td>150 to 249 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 or more months</td>
<td>250 or more weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The median duration of unemployment of wage or salary workers who were seeking work at the time of the census was seven months. (The median duration is the number of months which divides the group into two equal parts, one-half having been unemployed for a shorter period and one-half for a longer period than the median.) The median duration of unemployment is shown in diagram 6 for wage or salary workers seeking work, classified by age. Up to age 35, the median duration was about six months, but in each successive age group above 35 years the median was greater, and it exceeded fourteen months in the age class 75 years and over.

A comparison of the medians shown in diagram 6 and the percentages unemployed for various age groups of the labor force, shown in diagram 2, reveals an important difference between the nature of the unemployment problem of young workers and that of older workers. The high proportions of workers under 25 years old who were unemployed at the time of the census were due to a comparatively rapid turnover in employment, with frequent but relatively short periods of idleness. Among workers 35 to 64 years old, on the other hand, unemployment apparently occurred less frequently, but those who lost their jobs experienced relatively great difficulty in finding another job, and tended to remain unemployed for comparatively long periods.

In the interpretation of these figures, it should be borne in mind that some of the persons seeking work who had been out of work for very long periods, especially in the groups past the normal age of retirement, probably had little or no chance of returning to work. It should also be borne in mind that a considerable proportion of the wage or salary workers seeking work, especially in the age groups under 25 years, failed to report duration of unemployment, and it is probably not safe to assume that the periods of unemployment of persons who failed to report were similar to those which were reported.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS WITH A JOB BUT NOT AT WORK

Enumerators were instructed to classify as "With a job but not at work," persons reported as not seeking work who were temporarily away because of vacation, short illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, or lay-off for a period not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. Persons reported in this category were classified as employed in the 1940 census tabulations because most of them were persons who had been idle for only a brief period and would presumably return to work within a short time. In some cases, however, because of misunderstandings on the part of enumerators and informants, persons who had been out of work for relatively long periods were classified as having a job. It was especially difficult for enumerators to make the proper classification for seasonal workers not working at the time of the census, and for persons laid off for long periods on account of industrial breakdowns, lack of orders, etc. The number of persons reported as with a job but not at work was relatively large in seasonal industries and in industries in
THE LABOR FORCE—SAMPLE STATISTICS

which extensive reductions in employment occurred just before the time of the census. In some of the tables in this report, persons with a job but not at work (by class of worker and sex) are presented in Table IX for the United States, urban and rural. In urban and rural-nonfarm areas, the proportion reported as with a job but not at work was considerably greater for employers and own-account workers than for wage or salary workers. This difference may be at least partly from the tendency of some enumerators to report as with a job but not at work persons, other than wage or salary workers, who were actually at work during the census week. In rural-farm areas, the percentage reported as with a job but not at work was less for employers and own-account workers (0.9 percent) than for wage or salary workers (2.5 percent), probably because enumerators were instructed to report farmers as at work even though, because of bad weather, temporary illness, etc., they actually did not work during the census week.

Table IX. PERSONS WITH A JOB BUT NOT AT WORK, BY CLASS OF WORKER AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area and Class of Worker</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>1,177,685</td>
<td>805,540</td>
<td>372,145</td>
<td>1,577,830</td>
<td>2,277,070</td>
<td>2,087,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>9,650</td>
<td>9,650</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19300</td>
<td>19300</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>10,960</td>
<td>5,420</td>
<td>5,540</td>
<td>16,400</td>
<td>8,260</td>
<td>8,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>973,880</td>
<td>626,660</td>
<td>347,220</td>
<td>1,324,100</td>
<td>1,564,410</td>
<td>1,229,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>106,000</td>
<td>98,400</td>
<td>7260</td>
<td>114,260</td>
<td>109,800</td>
<td>44,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>12,900</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>29,100</td>
<td>16,200</td>
<td>12,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>109,200</td>
<td>141,100</td>
<td>6810</td>
<td>272,410</td>
<td>272,410</td>
<td>68,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>110,300</td>
<td>110,300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>220,600</td>
<td>220,600</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>5,460</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>9,220</td>
<td>3,220</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural-Rural</td>
<td>162,620</td>
<td>72,760</td>
<td>89,860</td>
<td>252,480</td>
<td>162,620</td>
<td>89,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>216,000</td>
<td>216,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>2,060</td>
<td>2,340</td>
<td>6,740</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>3,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural-Farm</td>
<td>24,760</td>
<td>16,900</td>
<td>7,860</td>
<td>41,620</td>
<td>24,760</td>
<td>7,860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS FOR WHOM EMPLOYMENT STATUS WAS NOT REPORTED

The category, "Employment status not reported," includes two groups: (a) Persons reported as not in the labor force but not assigned to any specific category, who constituted about 20 percent of the 1,007,140 persons for whom employment status was not recorded; and (b) those persons for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine whether they were in the labor force, who represented 80 percent of the total. The entire category is included in the tabulations of persons not in the labor force in the 1940 census reports, because most of the persons in the group for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine whether they were in the labor force, were in the labor force of the population in which the proportion in the labor force is low.

Of the group for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine their labor force status, 40 percent were attending school, 10 percent were 65 years old and over, 50 percent were married living with their husbands, and only 10 percent were men between the ages of 25 and 64. The major- ity of the group would probably have been classified as in school or engaged in own-home housework if full information had been obtained. In many cases the failure to obtain the answers to the employment status questions was due to the enumerator’s belief that the questions were not applicable to students, housewives, and aged persons.

On the basis of this evidence, it is estimated that probably not more than 200,000 of the persons for whom employment status was not reported would have been classified as in the labor force if full information had been obtained.

Data on age, sex, color, marital status, household relation- ship, and months worked in 1939 for persons for whom employment status was not reported are presented in the report entitled, "Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force."

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATION AND COMPLETE COUNT

The statistics in this report are based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the 1940 census returns. These figures differ slightly from the results of complete tabulations, which are based on some of the subjects included in this report. Table X presents the distribution by employment status of persons 14 years old and over. In the United States, by sex and urban-rural residence, based on five-percent sample tabulations, and the corresponding figures obtained from complete tabulations, which were published in Part I of Volume III of the Report on Population. These figures show the magnitude of the adjustments that would be needed to bring the five-percent sample figures in this report into exact agreement with the complete tabulations.

Table X. SAMPLE TABULATION AND COMPLETE COUNT, FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area and Employment Status</th>
<th>Based on complete count</th>
<th>Based on 5% sample count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 14 years and over</td>
<td>50,236,720</td>
<td>50,543,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In labor force</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>39,246,240</td>
<td>39,528,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>10,989,480</td>
<td>10,414,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not in labor force</strong></td>
<td>40,988,480</td>
<td>40,712,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>26,564,200</td>
<td>26,619,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>23,672,520</td>
<td>23,924,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By urban-rural residence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>36,664,220</td>
<td>36,748,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>13,572,520</td>
<td>13,816,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20,614,400</td>
<td>20,688,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>25,048,120</td>
<td>25,059,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By urban-rural residence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>21,473,850</td>
<td>21,513,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>15,082,670</td>
<td>15,307,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The differences between the five-percent sample figures and those obtained from the complete tabulations are due partly to sampling variations and partly to minor errors or bias in coding, card-punching, and machine tabulation. Exact agreement is not to be expected between these tabulations and the corre- sponding tabulations of a complete count, but the sample data nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various charac- teristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables, comparisons thus far made indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 10,000 will differ by less than 5 percent from those given by the complete count by less than 5 percent; 90 percent of those be- tween 5,000 and 10,000 will differ by less than 10 percent; and 95 percent of those between 2,000 and 5,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,000, but even there the majority of the differences are less than 10 percent.