

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

**CHARACTERISTICS OF
PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE
14 YEARS OLD AND OVER**

**Age, Sex, Color, Household Relationship, Months Worked
in 1939, and Usual Major Occupation Group**

Prepared under the supervision of
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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

REPORTS ON POPULATION

Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
 - II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
 - III The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income, 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 has 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 upon the tabulations of a 5-percent sample of the population returns, and presents the characteristics of persons who were not in the labor force at the time of the 1940 Census. The statistics are designed primarily for the analysis of the potential labor supply in the United States, and for the study of variations in the size of the labor force. These tabulations were included in the program of the Population Division in the belief that statistics on potential workers would be useful in the mobilization of the nation's available manpower reserves required to meet military and war production needs. 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 Mr. 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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PERSONS 14 AND OVER NOT IN LABOR FORCE

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This bulletin presents data on the characteristics of persons not in the labor force, based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken as of April 1, 1940. The subjects included are age, sex, color, household relationship, months worked in 1939, usual major occupation group, and social security status of persons 14 years old and over not in the labor force in the week of March 24-30, 1940. Statistics are presented for the United States and for four broad regions, the Northeastern States, the North Central States, the South, and the West, by urban and rural residence.

The statistics presented here are designed primarily for the analysis of the potential labor supply in the United States, and for the study of variations in the size of the labor force. Classifications of persons not in the labor force according to age, sex, and household relationship indicate the size and characteristics of the groups that could most readily be added to the labor force in a time of labor shortage. Statistics on months worked in 1939, social security status, and usual occupation are included in order to show the extent of past participation in the labor force on the part of persons who were not in the labor force during the week of March 24-30, 1940.

RELATED REPORTS

Additional information on the characteristics of persons not in the labor force, and statistics on characteristics of persons in the labor force, will be given in a series of publications under the general title, "The Labor Force-Sample Statistics." The specific titles of these bulletins and a brief summary of the subjects covered are indicated below.¹

Employment and Personal Characteristics: Detailed figures on characteristics of the labor force according to age, employment status, months worked in 1939, marital status, relationship to household head, and other characteristics, for the United States and for regions.

Employment and Family Characteristics of Women: Labor force status of women by marital status and number of children according to age, education, and other personal and family characteristics, for the United States and regions, and for metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more.

Usual Occupation: Usual occupations of persons in the labor force and of those not in the labor force, including data for regions, States, and large cities.

Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for wage or salary workers by months worked in 1939, age, and other characteristics, for other persons in the labor force, and for persons not in the labor force, for the United States, geographic divisions, States, and large cities.

Occupational Characteristics: Statistics on the occupational characteristics of the labor force, according to age, months worked in 1939, and other characteristics, for the United States and for regions; and occupational structure of industries, showing a detailed occupation classification of workers in each industry, for the United States.

Industrial Characteristics: Industrial characteristics of the labor force, by personal and economic characteristics, for the United States and for regions.

Statistics for persons not in the labor force by States and subdivisions of States are given in the publications based on the complete tabulations of the 1940 census returns. The

second series of Population bulletins for States, entitled "Characteristics of the Population," shows the categories of persons not in the labor force, by sex, for States by urban-rural residence, and for cities and other urban places, metropolitan districts, and counties. These bulletins also include data for persons in the labor force, by employment status; for employed workers by class of worker, major occupation group, and industry group; and statistics on age, sex, race, school attendance and education, and other characteristics of the population. The third series of Population bulletins, entitled "The Labor Force," presents for each State and for each city of 100,000 or more, detailed statistics for the labor force by occupation, industry, class of worker, employment status, hours worked during the census week, duration of unemployment, months worked in 1939, and wage or salary income received in 1939. The fourth series of Population bulletins, dealing with general population characteristics for States and cities of 50,000 or more, includes statistics for persons in the labor force and for those not in the labor force, by age and sex, together with detailed data on marital status, relationship to head of household, and education by age and sex.

Labor force data for families, including statistics on family wage or salary income in 1939, number and employment status of workers in the family, and occupation of head, will appear in separate publications.

AREAS

Most of the statistics in this bulletin are presented for the United States and for four regions: (a) The Northeastern States, comprising the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions; (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, however, regional figures are omitted or presented in condensed form, partly because of lack of space, and partly because errors due to sampling are larger in the small cell frequencies often found in the detailed cross-classifications for regions. The statistics that have been omitted for regions are available in unpublished form. (See "Unpublished Data," below).

All of the statistics are presented separately for urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas because of the fundamental differences among these types of communities in the kinds of employment opportunities available, and in the occupational characteristics of the population. 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-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, comprising the remaining rural population.

LABOR FORCE CLASSIFICATION

The labor force and employment classification in the 1940 Census of Population was obtained from questions regarding the activity during the week of March 24-30, 1940, of all persons 14 years old and over. These questions permitted a classification into two large groups: (1) Persons in the labor force, including (a) those at work for pay or profit or at unpaid family work during the week of March 24-30; (b) those with a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date; (c) those on public emergency work; and (d) those not at work but actively seeking work during the census week; and (2) Persons not in the labor

¹ At the time this bulletin goes to press (early in 1943) the bulletins referred to in this paragraph are in various stages of completion, and it is possible that minor changes may be made before publication.

PERSONS 14 AND OVER NOT IN LABOR FORCE

force, comprising the remainder of the population 14 years old and over.

Persons not in the labor force, to whom the statistics in this bulletin refer, are subdivided into six categories, as shown in Table I. These categories are described below:

1. **Engaged in own home housework.**—Persons primarily occupied with their own home housework.
2. **In school.**—Persons enrolled in school.
3. **Unable to work.**—Persons unable to work because of permanent disability, chronic illness, or old age.
4. **In institutions.**—Inmates of penal institutions, hospitals for the mentally diseased and defective, and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy. All inmates of such institutions were considered as not in the labor force, regardless of their activity during the census week.
5. **Other.**—Persons reported as not in the labor force who were not engaged in own home housework, in school, unable to work, nor in institutions. This group includes retired persons, persons who chose not to work, seasonal workers for whom the week of March 24-30, 1940, fell in an off-season and who were not seeking work, and persons who, for any other reason, were not in the labor force.
6. **Employment status not reported.**—Persons for whom enumerators did not obtain sufficient information to determine whether they were in the labor force, and persons reported as not in the labor force but not assigned by enumerators to any of the above five categories.

The category "In school" does not include all persons attending school during the census week. Students with part-time jobs are classified as in the labor force rather than in school. Moreover, many of the youths for whom employment status was not reported were probably attending school. The total number of persons 14 to 24 years old who attended school at any time in March, 1940, was 9,919,000; whereas only 9,035,000 were reported in the employment-status classification "In school."

Most of the persons in the categories "Unable to work" and "In institutions" are permanently outside of the labor force. Some disabled persons could doubtless be rehabilitated, and some institutional inmates are only temporarily out of the labor market, but these two groups form a fairly constant proportion of the population, and can be disregarded in an account of the potential labor supply. Consequently, these groups have been eliminated from many of the tables in this bulletin; such tables present data for the combination of the categories "Engaged in own home housework," "In school," "Other," and "Employment status not reported." Persons for whom employment status was not reported would probably have been classified for the most part as engaged in own home housework or in school, if full information had been obtained. (See "Characteristics of persons for whom employment status was not reported," below.)

Table I. LABOR FORCE STATUS OF THE POPULATION, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based partly on a 5-percent sample]

LABOR FORCE STATUS	Total	Male	Female	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
				Total	Male	Female
Population, 14 years old and over.....	101,102,924	50,558,748	50,544,176	-	-	-
In labor force.....	58,053,464	29,968,708	28,084,756	-	-	-
Not in labor force.....	43,049,460	20,589,040	22,460,420	100.0	100.0	100.0
Engaged in own home housework.....	28,685,900	12,773,760	15,912,140	59.7	2.6	75.8
In school.....	9,034,660	4,588,240	4,446,420	18.8	48.3	11.9
Unable to work.....	5,221,500	2,958,400	2,263,100	10.9	27.9	6.1
In institutions.....	1,142,340	745,940	396,400	2.4	7.1	1.1
Other.....	1,978,820	1,200,540	778,280	4.1	11.3	2.1
Employment status not rptd.	1,987,140	822,160	1,164,980	4.1	7.8	3.1
Not in labor force (except those unable to work or in institutions).....	41,685,620	18,844,700	22,840,920	86.8	65.0	92.9

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

AGE AND SEX

Age and sex classifications form an essential framework for a study of the economic characteristics of persons not in the labor force, because these two personal characteristics tend to determine the normal economic activities of individuals. The population not in the labor force is composed of three broad age and sex classes: (a) Persons of school age; (b) adult males, most of whom have retired from the labor market either voluntarily or because of old age or disability;

and (c) adult females, the great majority of whom are housewives engaged in their own home housework.

Changes in the size of the labor force are effected by shifts in the activities of individuals in all three of these groups, but the three classes differ markedly in the extent to which they may participate in the labor force and in the kinds of work that they may do. In a time of continued pressure on the labor supply, such as that due to wartime demands, some youths leave school and take jobs at an earlier age than in normal times, some men reaching retirement age postpone their withdrawal from the labor force, and some who have already retired, return to work. Most of the additional workers, however, are likely to come from the large group of women who make up the major part of the population not in the labor force.

A long period of large-scale unemployment may produce labor force shifts in the opposite direction. The number of young persons in the labor force may decrease because students prolong their schooling until they can find work, the ranks of retired workers may be swelled by men forced out of the competition for jobs at a comparatively early age, and married women may drop out of the labor market when jobs become scarce. On the other hand, prolonged unemployment of heads of families may force wives and children who are not normally in the labor force to look for jobs, and thus cause some increase in the labor supply.

Short-term variations in the labor supply also are produced by the movements into and out of the labor market of young persons and women, and to some extent of adult males. The population not in the labor force at any time includes a fringe of intermittent workers who enter the labor force from time to time for seasonal or other temporary work. This fringe is made up principally of young persons, a great many of whom work during the summer vacations and return to school for the balance of the year, and of housewives, who frequently work at certain seasons on farms, in canneries, department stores, or in other seasonal industries. In a time of labor shortage, many of these intermittent workers are likely to be absorbed into the full-time labor force.

Statistics for males and females are presented separately in all of the tables in this bulletin, and most of the tables include a classification by age. The age classification refers to age at the last birthday, that is, age in completed years.

Young persons.—The transition period during which young people leave school and enter the labor market or get married is illustrated in Table II, which shows the year-to-year changes between 14 and 24 years of age in the percentages of males and females in the labor force during the census week, the percentages in school, and the percentage of females engaged in own home housework. The columns giving the decreases from each age interval to the next in the proportion in school show the ages at which boys and girls leave school (or enter the labor force for part-time work while still in school). The differences from age to age in the labor force percentages show the age distribution of those entering the labor force each year; and the year-to-year increases in the proportion of females engaged in own home housework show the ages at which young women leave school or the labor market to take up house-keeping.²

Most young people enter the labor force between the ages of 16 and 19, the period during which most of them finish high school. Boys of these ages at the time of the census were leaving school at the rate of about 600,000 annually (Diagram 1). A considerable number dropped out one year earlier, between 15 and 16 years of age, or remained a year longer, leaving school between the ages of 19 and 20. Very few, however, left school before the age of 15, and few remained in school past age 21. Less than one young man in ten was still in school and not in the labor force at the age of 21, and hardly one in fifty was in school at 24.

Girls tended to leave school somewhat earlier than boys. Comparatively few girls dropped out before the age of 16, but between 16 and 19 years of age they left school at a more rapid rate than boys, so that the number of women who remained in school after reaching the age of 20 was much smaller than the corresponding number of men.

Practically all of the young men entered the labor force when they left school. A large fraction of the young women

² The figures in table II do not give a precise measure of these shifts because they are affected by changes over time in the activities of youths at a particular age, and by the occurrence of a few counter-movements such as the subsequent return to school of youths who had dropped out at an earlier age. Specific analyses of the ages at which youths leave school and the ages at which they marry, without regard to their labor force status, can be made on the basis of the data on marital status and school attendance by single years of age, which are presented in the fourth series Population bulletins.

also entered the labor market at least for a short period after leaving school, but many of them soon gave up their jobs to take up housekeeping duties. Between the ages of 16 and 19 years, for every three girls leaving school there were two entering the labor market and one taking up housekeeping. Between 19 and 20 years, however, more young women took up housekeeping than entered the labor force. The proportion of women in the labor force reached its peak at age 20; after that age women began to retire from the labor market to engage in home housekeeping. Between ages 20 and 21, these retirements nearly balanced the number of new female entrants to the labor force, so that the number of females in the labor force declined only slightly; but at ages over 22 the decline was more rapid, as increasing numbers of former workers left the labor market to marry and set up housekeeping.

Table II. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE YEARS OF AGE IN PERCENTAGES OF MALES AND FEMALES 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD IN THE LABOR FORCE, OR IN SCHOOL, AND OF FEMALES ENGAGED IN OWN HOME HOUSEWORK, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample. Figures derived by subtracting the percentage of males or females in the labor force, in school, or engaged in own home housework, for each year of age, from the corresponding percentage for the preceding year of age. A plus sign (+) indicates that the percentage for the given year of age exceeds that for the preceding year; a minus sign (-) indicates that the percentage for the given year is less than that for the preceding year.]

AREA AND AGE	MALE		FEMALE		
	In labor force	In school	In labor force	In school	Engaged in own home housework
UNITED STATES					
15 years.....	+4.7	-3.5	+1.5	-2.9	+2.9
16 years.....	+11.5	-11.2	+5.7	-10.5	+5.0
17 years.....	+15.1	-13.9	+9.2	-14.5	+5.7
18 years.....	+21.6	-20.3	+17.4	-25.0	+8.4
19 years.....	+24.7	-14.1	+9.8	-14.9	+6.0
20 years.....	+7.9	-7.4	+2.6	-7.5	+5.5
21 years.....	+4.5	-3.3	-0.1	-3.3	+4.1
22 years.....	+3.0	-2.5	-1.0	-2.7	+4.0
23 years.....	+2.7	-2.3	-2.7	-1.6	+4.6
24 years.....	+1.3	-1.3	-2.6	-0.5	+3.3
URBAN					
15 years.....	+2.8	-1.2	+1.1	-0.9	+1.4
16 years.....	+9.9	-9.6	+5.9	-9.7	+3.2
17 years.....	+15.4	-14.6	+11.9	-16.1	+4.5
18 years.....	+24.2	-22.9	+23.5	-28.7	+5.9
19 years.....	+15.8	-15.3	+11.8	-15.7	+5.0
20 years.....	+2.6	-2.3	+2.2	-7.6	+5.2
21 years.....	+4.7	-4.1	-0.5	-3.0	+4.2
22 years.....	+3.7	-3.1	-1.4	-5.1	+4.6
23 years.....	+3.1	-2.9	-2.1	-1.7	+3.4
24 years.....	+1.6	-1.7	-2.2	-0.5	+3.9
RURAL-NONFARM					
15 years.....	+3.2	-2.2	+1.8	-4.4	+3.5
16 years.....	+12.1	-12.1	+5.7	-11.3	+5.8
17 years.....	+15.0	-13.2	+7.5	-14.8	+7.3
18 years.....	+22.4	-20.8	+18.5	-22.0	+10.8
19 years.....	+15.0	-14.1	+6.5	-14.6	+8.8
20 years.....	+3.2	-7.6	+2.2	-7.4	+6.5
21 years.....	+4.3	-4.1	-1.6	-3.6	+5.9
22 years.....	+2.6	-2.0	-0.9	-2.2	+2.8
23 years.....	+2.3	-2.0	-3.1	-1.2	+4.5
24 years.....	+1.5	-1.2	-1.5	-0.5	+2.5
RURAL-FARM					
15 years.....	+8.9	-7.8	+2.0	-5.7	+5.2
16 years.....	+14.0	-12.3	+3.7	-11.3	+7.9
17 years.....	+14.7	-12.5	+4.7	-12.2	+7.9
18 years.....	+16.9	-15.9	+6.2	-19.2	+13.5
19 years.....	+11.2	-10.0	+4.5	-12.9	+8.5
20 years.....	+6.2	-6.0	+1.7	-8.1	+7.2
21 years.....	+4.3	-3.1	-0.7	-3.8	+4.9
22 years.....	+2.1	-1.9	-1.0	-2.3	+3.7
23 years.....	+2.1	-1.2	-2.8	-1.1	+4.9
24 years.....	+0.5	-0.7	-1.3	-0.6	+2.3

The pattern of these shifts in the activities of young people differed considerably as between urban and rural areas. In the cities, they tended to leave school less rapidly between the ages of 15 and 17 than in the rural areas, and a larger proportion remained in school past 20 years of age. Most of those who dropped out of school before age 15, and a comparatively large fraction of those leaving between 15 and 16 years of age, lived in rural-farm areas. In the farm population, the age at which females entered the group engaged in own home housework also tended to be much lower than in the cities.

The figures showing differences in the ages at which young people leave school in urban and rural areas, and variations for males and females, are influenced by part-time employment of persons still in school, since students working after school hours are a part of the labor force and hence are not included in the tabulations presented in this bulletin. The

ages at which young persons ceased to attend school were therefore somewhat higher than those indicated in table II, especially for groups among which part-time work after school was most common. The number of persons who were both in the labor force and attending school was probably proportionately greater in rural than in urban areas, and greater among males than among females. Statistics on the employment status of persons attending school will be presented in the fourth series of Population bulletins.

Since the time of the census, the number of young persons leaving school to enter the labor market at a relatively early age has probably increased to some extent in response to wartime pressure on the labor supply. There has probably also been a tendency for a larger number of young women to enter the labor market when they leave school, coupled with a tendency for young women to remain in the labor market longer than in normal times. These tendencies, however, have probably operated for the most part among young persons 18 years of age or more, and have probably had little effect on the employment of those under 16. The employment of children under 16 is limited by child-labor laws, compulsory school-attendance requirements, and established standards of education, which are unlikely to be disregarded on a large scale, even in time of war. Similar restrictions, though less rigid and less widespread, apply to the employment of children 16 and 17 years old. For these reasons, the contribution of youths under 18 to the war labor supply is likely to be mostly in the form of seasonal work during school vacations, and part-time work after school hours, unless legislative and other restrictions on their employment are relaxed.

Adult males.—The supply of labor in the adult male population is limited principally by old age and disability. Nearly all men between the ages of 25 and 44 are in the labor force, and most of those who are not in the labor force are men prematurely disabled or confined to institutions (table III). Disability takes a gradually increasing toll as age increases from 45 to 60 years, and at ages over 60 the proportion of men unable to work increases rapidly until it includes nearly two-thirds of all men 75 years old and over. At about age 60, considerable numbers of able-bodied men begin to drop out of the labor force, going into voluntary retirement or joining the ranks of men still able to work but no longer able to compete with younger workers.

The half-way point at which only 50 percent of the men remain in the labor force is reached between the ages of 65 and 74. In this entire age group, 49 percent of the men were outside the labor force at the time of the census, about 34 percent being unable to work or in institutions, and about 15 percent not in the labor force for other reasons. In the age group 75 years and over, only about 18 percent of the men were still in the labor force, and 63 percent were unable to work or in institutions.

Departures from the labor force because of disability and retirement begin earlier and proceed more rapidly in urban and rural-nonfarm areas than in the farm population. In the age group 65 to 74 years, only 46 percent of the urban males were still in the labor force, as compared with 70 percent of the rural-farm males. This difference can be attributed largely to the fact that opportunities for the employment of older workers in agriculture are comparatively good, especially for farm operators, who can continue even at an advanced age to operate their farms with the help of their families or by means of hired labor. The proportion of men not in the labor force but able to work and not in institutions was especially small in rural-farm areas, amounting to only 6 percent of the men 65 to 74 years old, as compared with 19 percent for urban males of the same age class. Voluntary retirements from the labor force are less frequent in farming areas than in the cities.

The pattern of the withdrawal from the labor force on the part of men in rural-nonfarm areas is quite similar to that in urban areas. The proportion of men in institutions is considerably higher in the rural-nonfarm areas than elsewhere, since institutions tend to be located in rural-nonfarm territory.

The records of the Social Security Board indicate that the increased demand for labor during the war, has induced some men who had reached retirement age to remain longer in the labor force. Retardation of retirement as a source of expansion in the labor supply is limited, however, by chronic illness and disability, especially at ages over 65 years. Social security records also show a tendency for men already retired to return to work, but this tendency affords an even smaller margin of possible increase in the labor supply. Many retired men will be unwilling to return to work even under the most favorable conditions, and others, finding their age a serious

handicap in their former occupations, will be unwilling to accept other kinds of work in which they can still find employment. Employers are not likely to hire very old men as long as any younger workers can be found, even though considerable pressure is exerted upon them. The age of 65 years can therefore be set as a rough upper limit to the age group from which appreciable increases in the labor force can be obtained.

Adult females.—Women usually retire from the labor force at a much lower age than men. Most women leave their jobs when they marry; some married women without children continue to work, but very few women remain in the labor force after they begin to raise a family. The exodus of women from the labor market begins at about the age of 20, and continues on a large scale through the 20's and early 30's (table III). The rate of retirement is most rapid in the age group from 25 to 34 years, but it continues at a rate far greater than that for males, throughout the ages from 25 to 44 years. Only 23 percent of the female population 45 to 54 years old were in the labor force in 1940, as compared with 44 percent for women 18 to 24 years old. At ages between 45 and 64 the retirement of women proceeds more slowly, but the proportion of women still in the labor force at ages over 65 is small, amounting to little more than 8 percent in the age group 65 to 74 at the time of the census. (See below for discussion of age differences between white and nonwhite women in labor force participation.)

Table III. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY LABOR FORCE STATUS, FOR THE POPULATION, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

LABOR FORCE STATUS AND AGE	MALE				FEMALE			
	United States	Urban	Rural-non-farm	Rural-farm	United States	Urban	Rural-non-farm	Rural-farm
Percent of population in labor force								
Total, 14 yrs. and over.	79.1	79.7	75.0	81.2	25.8	31.5	21.1	12.5
14 to 17 years.....	18.8	13.1	16.2	30.4	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.7
18 to 24 years.....	81.3	80.3	80.0	84.5	44.0	54.1	34.9	23.0
25 to 29 years.....	94.8	95.3	92.9	95.4	35.5	43.8	26.5	15.8
30 to 34 years.....	95.4	96.0	98.3	96.0	30.9	37.8	24.1	12.9
35 to 44 years.....	94.6	95.2	91.6	96.0	27.2	33.1	22.8	11.1
45 to 54 years.....	92.0	92.4	87.3	95.0	23.5	27.0	20.3	10.2
55 to 59 years.....	87.9	87.4	82.9	93.0	18.5	21.8	17.1	9.8
60 to 64 years.....	79.0	77.1	72.8	88.1	14.8	17.2	13.5	8.5
65 to 74 years.....	51.0	46.2	40.5	69.5	7.7	8.5	6.5	6.7
75 years and over.....	18.2	14.7	11.6	31.8	2.3	2.2	1.9	3.1
Percent of population not in labor force (except unable to work or in institutions)								
Total, 14 yrs. and over.	13.6	13.6	14.1	13.2	69.0	68.3	72.6	83.0
14 to 17 years.....	79.4	85.6	80.5	68.2	90.7	90.4	90.4	91.4
18 to 24 years.....	16.4	17.7	15.7	13.9	54.5	44.4	63.0	75.7
25 to 29 years.....	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.8	63.0	54.8	71.5	83.0
30 to 34 years.....	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.9	67.5	60.7	73.6	85.8
35 to 44 years.....	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.7	70.9	65.1	74.2	87.6
45 to 54 years.....	2.7	2.8	3.5	2.0	74.4	70.0	75.8	87.8
55 to 59 years.....	4.2	4.6	5.5	2.8	76.0	72.7	76.0	86.3
60 to 64 years.....	7.3	8.3	9.1	3.5	75.3	72.7	75.3	83.6
65 to 74 years.....	15.5	19.2	17.4	6.3	68.3	67.5	68.7	70.7
75 years and over.....	18.4	23.5	17.7	8.5	44.3	45.5	45.9	38.1
Percent of population unable to work or in institutions								
Total, 14 yrs. and over.	7.3	6.7	10.8	5.7	5.3	5.8	6.4	4.5
14 to 17 years.....	1.8	1.8	3.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.2	0.9
18 to 24 years.....	2.3	2.0	4.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.2
25 to 29 years.....	2.5	2.0	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.4	2.0	1.2
30 to 34 years.....	2.8	2.2	4.7	2.2	1.6	1.5	2.3	1.2
35 to 44 years.....	3.4	2.9	6.2	2.3	2.0	1.8	3.0	1.3
45 to 54 years.....	5.3	4.8	9.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	4.6	2.0
55 to 59 years.....	7.9	8.0	11.6	4.7	5.5	5.5	6.9	3.9
60 to 64 years.....	13.8	14.6	18.1	8.4	9.9	10.1	11.2	8.0
65 to 74 years.....	33.5	34.6	42.1	24.2	23.9	23.9	24.8	25.6
75 years and over.....	63.4	61.8	70.7	59.7	53.4	52.3	52.2	58.8

In rural-farm areas the age of retirement for women is especially low. The proportion of farm women in the labor force is greatest for those under 25 years of age. For women 25 to 29 years old, the percentage in the labor force was only 16 percent in rural-farm areas, as compared with 44 percent in urban and 27 percent in rural-nonfarm areas. The great majority of all farm women are home houseworkers. A great many of these farm housewives, of course, are engaged to some extent in farm work, if only in minor chores. Many of them also are seasonal workers who enter the labor force for full-time work at certain times of the year.

The decline at ages over 30, and especially at ages over 45, in the proportion of women in the labor force in urban and

rural-nonfarm areas can be attributed partly to decreasing opportunities for employment of women as their age advances. Employers prefer younger women for most kinds of work, and even in times of labor scarcity they may discriminate against older women as long as they can find younger workers to fill the vacant jobs. For this reason, the majority of the women who enter the labor market during a period of labor shortage are likely to come from the age groups under 45 years, although some increase is likely to occur also in the employment of women between the ages of 45 and 64. Few women over 65 years of age are likely to become workers, for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with men not in the labor force.

COLOR

In the nonwhite population (which includes Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and other nonwhite races) children, women, and aged persons participate in the labor market to a much greater extent than whites in the same age and sex groups. The tendency for nonwhite students to leave school and enter the labor market at a comparatively early age is illustrated by the fact that 33 percent of the nonwhite boys 14 to 17 years old were in the labor force during the census week, as compared with only 17 percent of the whites in this age group (table IV). Part of the difference shown by the census figures for the two racial groups is due to the greater tendency for nonwhite children to be employed part time while attending school.

Table IV. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY LABOR FORCE STATUS, FOR THE POPULATION, BY AGE, COLOR, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE AND SEX	PERCENT OF POPULATION					
	In labor force		Not in labor force (except unable to work or in institutions)		Unable to work or in institutions	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
Male, 14 yrs. and over...	79.0	80.0	13.8	11.6	7.2	8.4
14 to 17 years.....	17.1	32.6	81.2	65.0	1.7	2.5
18 to 24 years.....	81.0	83.7	16.9	11.6	2.1	4.6
25 to 29 years.....	95.1	92.1	2.7	2.8	2.2	5.1
30 to 34 years.....	95.7	92.7	1.8	2.1	2.5	5.3
35 to 44 years.....	94.9	92.4	1.9	2.3	3.2	5.4
45 to 54 years.....	92.2	89.9	2.8	2.6	5.1	7.5
55 to 59 years.....	87.9	87.7	4.3	3.0	7.8	9.3
60 to 64 years.....	78.9	80.5	7.5	4.2	13.6	15.3
65 to 74 years.....	50.5	56.9	16.3	6.2	33.3	36.9
75 years and over.....	17.8	23.5	19.2	6.7	63.0	69.8
Female, 14 yrs. and over...	24.5	37.6	70.5	54.7	5.0	7.7
14 to 17 years.....	7.1	14.1	91.5	84.2	1.4	1.7
18 to 24 years.....	44.1	42.4	54.4	55.1	1.4	2.5
25 to 29 years.....	34.2	46.1	64.5	51.1	1.8	2.8
30 to 34 years.....	29.1	46.2	69.5	50.4	1.4	3.4
35 to 44 years.....	25.1	45.1	73.2	50.5	1.7	4.5
45 to 54 years.....	20.9	40.0	78.4	32.5	2.7	7.5
55 to 59 years.....	17.4	33.6	77.8	52.7	4.9	13.7
60 to 64 years.....	13.9	27.6	77.0	49.8	9.0	23.0
65 to 74 years.....	7.2	15.3	70.4	40.9	22.4	43.7
75 years and over.....	2.1	4.9	45.7	22.9	52.2	72.8

For women 18 to 24 years old, there were no great differences between white and nonwhites in the proportions in the labor force. Nonwhite women, however, showed a marked tendency to remain in the labor force after 25 years of age, while white women of corresponding ages were retiring from the labor market and taking up home housework. The proportion of nonwhite women in the labor force remained at an almost constant level between the ages of 25 and 45 years, and it was only in the age groups above 60 years that it declined greatly. This difference can be attributed partly to the pressure of poverty, which forces nonwhite women to work for a living even after they have married and have begun to raise a family. It may also be due partly to the fact that nonwhite women are employed largely as domestic servants and farm laborers, occupations in which opportunities for the employment of older women are comparatively favorable.

The retirement age for nonwhite men also tends to be somewhat higher than for whites. In the age group 65 to 74 years, 57 percent of the nonwhite male population were still in the labor force; for whites, the percentage was only 51. On the other hand, the proportions who were unable to work or in institutions were comparatively high for both male and female nonwhites in the age groups over 60 years. In other words, there was a tendency for nonwhites to remain in the labor force as long as they were able to work, so that the number of persons not in the labor force but able to work and not in institutions was relatively small in the nonwhite population.

Separate data for nonwhites are presented in all of the detailed tables for the United States in this bulletin, and in all of those for the South. In most of the tables for the Northeastern States, the North Central States, and the West, where the nonwhite population is relatively small, statistics by color are not given. The great majority of the nonwhites are Negroes, except in the West, where there are many Indians, Chinese, and Japanese. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were returned as white in the 1940 census.

POTENTIAL WORKERS

The analysis of the potential labor supply represented by persons who were not in the labor force in March 1940, can be confined to those classes of the population which are most likely to be drawn into the labor force during a period of labor shortage, excluding disabled persons, inmates of institutions, children under 18 years of age, and persons over 65. Any large supplement to the war labor supply is likely to be obtained almost entirely from persons between the ages of 18 and 64 who are able to work and not inmates of institutions. Such persons are designated for convenience "potential workers." It is not assumed that all, or even a majority, of these persons can be drawn into the war labor market, since there are many factors that will restrict or prohibit labor force participation. These factors are discussed below in the analysis of the principal components of the potential-worker group.

This category of "potential workers" comprised 30 million persons during the last week of March 1940 (table V). The great majority of them (nearly 28 million) were women, since most of the men outside the labor force were over 65 or under 18 years old, or were reported as unable to work or in institutions.

Table V. POTENTIAL WORKERS AND OTHER PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE	Total	Male	Female	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
				Total	Male	Female
Total not in labor force, 14 years and over.....	48,049,460	10,585,040	37,464,420	100.0	100.0	100.0
Potential workers.....	29,875,540	2,274,640	27,600,900	62.2	21.5	78.7
18 to 44 years old.....	19,876,960	1,754,980	18,121,980	41.4	16.6	48.4
45 to 64 years old.....	9,998,580	519,660	9,478,920	20.8	4.9	25.3
Others not in labor force.....	18,173,920	8,310,400	9,863,520	37.8	78.6	26.3
Unable to work or in institutions.....	6,363,840	3,700,340	2,663,500	13.2	35.0	7.1
All others.....	11,810,080	4,610,060	7,200,020	24.6	43.6	19.2
14 to 17 years old.....	8,297,880	3,892,940	4,404,940	17.3	36.8	11.8
65 years old and over.....	3,512,200	717,120	2,795,160	7.3	6.8	7.5

The reserve of 28 million female potential workers included more than 9 million women 45 to 64 years old. This older group of women is likely to yield a smaller proportion of additional workers than the younger group, between 18 and 44 years of age. The most easily available recruits to the labor market are the potential female workers 18 to 44 years old, who numbered slightly over 18 million at the time of the census.

About 56 percent of the total number of potential workers lived in urban areas; approximately 20 percent lived in rural-nonfarm areas, and 23 percent lived on farms (table VI). Those living in the urban centers or in surrounding rural-nonfarm communities are likely to be the most easily employed during a labor shortage, because of the number and diversity of employment opportunities in the cities. The 7 million potential workers living on farms can be employed for the most part only in agriculture, unless they migrate to the centers of industry and trade in search of nonagricultural jobs.

Table VI. POTENTIAL WORKERS, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE AND SEX	United States	Urban	Rural-nonfarm	Rural-farm
Total not in labor force, 14 years and over.....	48,049,460	26,952,260	10,311,460	10,785,740
Potential workers.....	29,875,540	16,860,200	6,105,080	6,910,320
Male.....	2,274,640	1,361,620	477,660	435,360
Female.....	27,600,900	15,498,580	5,627,360	6,474,960
18 to 44 years old.....	19,876,960	9,914,040	3,906,220	4,301,720
45 to 64 years old.....	9,998,580	5,584,540	1,721,140	2,173,240
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
Total not in labor force.....	100.0	56.1	21.5	22.4
Potential workers.....	100.0	56.4	20.4	23.1
Male.....	100.0	59.9	21.0	19.1
Female.....	100.0	56.2	20.4	23.7
18 to 44 years.....	100.0	54.7	21.6	23.7
45 to 64 years.....	100.0	58.9	18.2	22.9

About one out of thirteen potential workers was nonwhite (table VII). The absorption into the labor force of the nonwhite portion of the potential labor supply involves special problems of training nonwhite workers for war work and of reducing discriminatory hiring practices. Most of the nonwhite potential workers had relatively little training or experience in the occupations in which labor shortages are most critical. (See "Usual occupations of nonwhites," below). At the time of the census, a very large proportion of the nonwhite workers in Northern cities were unemployed, partly because of their comparative lack of training and experience of the kinds that were in demand, and partly because many employers were unwilling to hire nonwhites if other workers were available. Employment opportunities for nonwhite workers have undoubtedly improved since the time of the census, and will continue to improve in the future as the number of available white workers diminishes, but the reserves of nonwhite labor cannot be fully utilized unless extensive training and retraining is undertaken, and the prejudice against them is reduced or eliminated.

Table VII. COLOR OF POTENTIAL WORKERS, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE AND SEX	Total	White	Nonwhite	PERCENT OF TOTAL	
				White	Nonwhite
Total not in labor force, 14 years and over.....	48,049,460	44,058,780	3,990,680	91.7	8.3
Potential workers.....	29,875,540	27,608,300	2,267,240	92.4	7.6
Male.....	2,274,640	2,100,760	173,880	92.4	7.6
Female.....	27,600,900	25,507,540	2,093,360	92.4	7.6
18 to 44 years old.....	19,876,960	18,527,480	1,349,480	91.2	8.8
45 to 64 years old.....	9,998,580	8,980,120	1,018,460	94.7	5.3

An additional difficulty in increasing the nonwhite labor force may arise from the fact that the proportion of nonwhites in the labor force was already comparatively high at the time of the census, chiefly because of the high percentages of nonwhite women in the labor force at ages beyond thirty years. It is possible that most of the nonwhite women who could be drawn into the labor market were already workers, especially in the case of the older women, and that increasing demand for labor would result in comparatively little increase in the nonwhite labor force.

Data on age, sex, and color for each category of persons not in the labor force are presented for the United States and regions, urban and rural, in detailed tables 1 to 4.

HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP

The household composition of the population plays a large part in determining the normal size of the labor force, the limit to which it can readily be increased, and the minimum below which it is unlikely to fall. An individual's age and household relationship largely fix his normal role, whether as a breadwinner, as a homemaker responsible for the care of the household and its dependent members, or as a dependent. This role is often so rigidly determined by the composition of the family that it cannot easily be adjusted to changes in the condition of the labor market.

The classifications according to household relationship given in this bulletin are based on marital status and relationship to head of household. Each individual is classified according to relationship to the head of the household in which he lived, as (a) head of private household, (b) wife of head, (c) other relative of head, or (d) not relative of head (that is, not related by blood, marriage, or adoption, to the head of the household), or not living in a private household. In order to indicate more clearly the household relationship of persons not in the labor force, these classes are subdivided according to marital status, as described below.

In the classification by marital status four groups are shown: (a) Single; (b) married, spouse present; (c) married, spouse absent; and (d) widowed and divorced. These terms refer to marital status at the time the census was taken. Persons classified as "married" comprise, therefore, both those who have been married only once and those who have remarried after being divorced or widowed. A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the person's husband or wife was reported as a member of the household 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, married persons whose families have been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose husbands or wives were left abroad, husbands or wives of persons enumerated as inmates of institutions, and other married persons whose usual place of residence is not the same as

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that of their husbands or wives. In most of the tables in this bulletin, married persons with spouse absent are combined with widowed or divorced persons, since separated spouses are likely to be financially more or less independent.

The statistics by household relationship in this bulletin differ from family statistics, in that the data given here represent the classifications of individuals, rather than of entire families as units. Statistics for families will be presented in later publications, which will include classifications according to labor force status of the head, of the wife, and of other family members in relation to the composition of the family.

HEADS OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

One person in each private household was designated in the 1940 census as the household head, that is, the person regarded as the head by the members 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 housekeeping arrangements. A person living alone or a small group of unrelated persons sharing the same living accommodations as "partners" is also counted as a private household.

The head of 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. Heads of one-person households, or of households consisting entirely of unrelated persons, may have had neither dependents to support, nor other breadwinners upon whom they could rely for their own support. Many of the household heads who were not in the labor force were probably dependents. In all of the detailed tables on household relationship, married male heads with wife present in the household are shown separately.

Nearly two-thirds of the male heads of households not in the labor force were reported as unable to work, and one-fourth were not in the labor force for "Other" reasons; most of the latter were probably voluntarily retired (table VIII). Even of those who were able to work, one-half were over 65 years of age, and about 83 percent were over 45 (table IX). Because most male heads are normally the principal breadwinners for their families, they tend to remain in the labor force as long as they are able to work, or until they reach the retirement age. Consequently, few of the male heads not in the labor force are likely to enter the labor market even in response to wartime needs.

Table VIII. RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD FOR ALL PERSONS, AND MARITAL STATUS FOR FEMALES, NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, SEX, AGE, AND MARITAL STATUS	Total not in labor force	Engaged in own home housework	In school	Unable to work	In insti- tutions	Other	Employment status not reported	PERCENT OF TOTAL					
								Engaged in own home housework	In school	Unable to work	In insti- tutions	Other	Employ- ment status not reported
RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD													
Male, 14 years and over.....	10,565,040	273,760	4,568,240	2,953,400	746,940	1,200,540	822,160	2.6	43.3	27.9	7.1	11.3	7.8
Head of private household.....	2,968,260	88,440	23,160	1,905,380	-	741,200	210,080	3.0	0.8	54.2	-	25.0	7.1
Relative of head.....	6,242,320	175,860	4,452,380	791,780	-	548,680	473,620	2.8	71.3	12.7	-	5.6	7.6
14 to 17 years old.....	3,852,780	35,100	3,421,180	33,240	-	73,400	289,360	0.9	86.8	0.9	-	1.9	7.6
18 years old and over.....	2,389,540	140,760	1,031,200	758,540	-	275,280	183,760	5.9	43.2	31.7	-	11.5	7.7
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	1,374,460	9,460	112,700	256,240	746,940	110,660	138,460	0.7	8.2	18.6	54.3	8.1	10.1
Female, 14 years and over.....	37,464,420	28,411,540	4,446,420	2,268,100	395,400	777,980	1,164,980	75.8	11.9	6.1	1.1	2.1	3.1
Head of private household.....	3,237,740	2,368,300	8,920	625,480	-	171,840	63,700	73.1	0.3	19.3	-	5.3	2.0
Wife of head.....	23,003,520	22,130,490	23,440	321,040	-	57,540	471,020	96.2	0.1	1.4	-	0.3	2.0
Other relative of head.....	9,988,620	3,563,840	4,309,920	1,134,060	-	446,660	584,120	35.7	49.1	11.4	-	4.5	5.8
14 to 17 years old.....	4,259,180	375,800	3,489,340	32,960	-	62,220	298,860	8.8	81.9	0.8	-	1.5	7.0
18 years old and over.....	5,729,440	3,188,040	820,580	1,101,120	-	384,440	235,260	55.6	14.8	19.2	-	6.7	4.1
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	1,234,540	348,920	104,140	187,500	395,400	102,440	96,140	28.3	8.4	15.2	32.0	8.3	7.8
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES													
Female, 14 years and over.....	37,464,420	28,411,540	4,446,420	2,268,100	395,400	777,980	1,164,980	75.8	11.9	6.1	1.1	2.1	3.1
Single.....	7,623,920	1,770,200	4,400,160	412,640	205,300	339,120	436,500	23.2	57.7	5.4	2.7	4.4	6.5
Married, husband present.....	24,507,060	23,444,000	29,060	406,440	4,140	103,540	519,880	95.7	0.1	1.7	-	0.4	2.1
Other marital status.....	5,333,440	3,197,340	17,200	1,449,020	185,960	335,320	148,600	59.9	0.3	27.2	3.5	6.3	2.8

Female heads likewise are a group not easily drawn into the labor market. Only about one-fifth of the female heads not in the labor force at the time of the census were reported as unable to work; but more than one-third of those who were able to work were over 65 and nearly one-half were 45 to 64 years old (tables VIII and IX). These women were mostly widows and divorcees. Many of them probably did not need to work for a living and some had housekeeping duties too heavy to permit their employment outside the home, even if they were not too old to get a job.

About 13 percent of the female heads not in the labor force were married women. The great majority of these were women whose husbands were absent from the household, such as the wives of soldiers, sailors, men in labor camps, and institutional inmates. If both husband and wife were enumerated as members of the household, instructions called for reporting the husband rather than the wife as the household head. The small number of female heads who were classified as married with husband present is therefore not shown separately in the tables in this bulletin; these cases result from occasional errors in classification.

WIVES OF HEADS

Wives of household heads were the largest group of persons not in the labor force; they comprised 23,000,000 of the 37,500,000 women not in the labor force in March 1940 (table VIII). Almost all of these women were engaged in own home housework; less than 2 percent were unable to work, and most of them were in the age range from which considerable additions to the labor force might be drawn. About 14,000,000 were 18 to 44 years old, and 7,300,000 were 45 to 64 years

Table IX. HEADS OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE UNABLE TO WORK), BY AGE, MARITAL STATUS, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE AND MARITAL STATUS	Total	Male	Female	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	
				Male	Female
AGE					
Total, 14 years and over..	3,675,140	1,062,880	2,612,260	100.0	100.0
14 to 17 years.....	6,960	3,660	3,400	0.3	0.1
18 to 24 years.....	58,760	23,480	30,280	2.2	1.2
25 to 34 years.....	191,020	67,640	123,480	6.4	4.7
35 to 44 years.....	370,220	89,060	281,160	8.4	10.8
45 to 64 years.....	1,587,660	347,480	1,240,180	32.7	47.5
65 years and over.....	1,465,520	531,760	933,760	50.0	35.7
MARITAL STATUS					
Total.....	3,675,140	1,062,880	2,612,260	100.0	100.0
Single.....	345,100	100,060	245,040	9.4	9.4
Married.....	1,133,620	795,820	337,800	74.9	13.9
Widowed and divorced.....	2,196,420	167,000	2,029,420	15.7	77.7

old, excluding those unable to work (table X). Almost all wives have some home-making responsibilities, which would interfere at least to some extent with their employment outside the home. Many of those who have young children would probably enter the labor market if they could make some provision for the care of their children while they worked.

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Table X. WIVES OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, NOT IN LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE UNABLE TO WORK), BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE	Number	Percent distribution
Total, 14 years and over.....	22,682,480	100.0
14 to 17 years.....	92,400	0.4
18 to 24 years.....	2,336,560	10.3
25 to 34 years.....	5,979,680	26.4
35 to 44 years.....	5,751,960	25.4
45 to 64 years.....	7,325,000	32.3
65 years and over.....	1,196,880	5.3

The number of wives of household heads was somewhat smaller than the total number of married women living with their husbands. The difference is made up by married relatives of heads, such as daughters, daughters-in-law, and sisters, and by nonrelatives and married women not in private households.

OTHER RELATIVES OF HEADS

Relatives of heads, other than wives, also constitute a considerable reserve labor supply. There were 6 million male and 10 million female relatives of heads (other than wives) 14 years old and over who were not in the labor force, including sons and daughters, grandchildren, and parents of heads, and all other persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the head of the household in which they were living (table VIII). About 62 percent of the males and 43 percent of the females in this group were under 18 years of age, but there were about 2,400,000 males and 5,700,000 females who were 18 years old and over. Children 14 to 17 years old are classified separately from adult relatives of heads in all of the tables on household relationship.

Adult male relatives of heads formed only a small element of the population not in the labor force and able to work, but they were a group who could for the most part readily be brought into the labor market. This group numbered 1,600,000 males, three-fourths of whom were youths 18 to 24 years old and five-sixths of whom were single (table XI). On the other hand, the group included 100,000 men 65 years old and over. The latter were probably mostly retired fathers living with their children; many of them were in about the same situation as elderly men returned as household heads, whose children were present in the household.

Table XI. RELATIVES OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS, NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT WIVES AND PERSONS UNABLE TO WORK), BY AGE, MARITAL STATUS, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

AGE AND MARITAL STATUS	Total	Male	Female	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	
				Male	Female
AGE					
Total, 18 years and over....	6,259,320	1,631,000	4,628,320	100.0	100.0
18 to 24 years.....	3,332,300	1,240,700	2,091,600	76.1	45.2
25 to 34 years.....	941,340	128,100	813,240	7.9	17.6
35 to 44 years.....	427,240	55,560	371,680	3.4	8.0
45 to 64 years.....	868,380	91,680	776,700	5.6	16.8
65 years and over.....	690,060	114,960	575,100	7.0	12.4
MARITAL STATUS					
Total, 18 years and over....	6,259,320	1,631,000	4,628,320	100.0	100.0
Single.....	3,712,680	1,360,140	2,352,540	83.4	50.8
Married, spouse present.....	1,258,220	159,800	1,098,420	9.8	23.7
Other marital status.....	1,288,420	111,060	1,177,360	6.8	25.4
18 to 44 years.....	(1)	(1)	3,276,520	-	100.0
Single.....	(1)	(1)	2,041,120	-	62.3
Married, spouse present.....	(1)	(1)	911,180	-	27.8
Other marital status.....	(1)	(1)	324,220	-	9.9

¹ Data not available for male relatives, 18 to 44 years old.

Female relatives of heads, other than wives, over 18 years of age were also a comparatively small part of the population not in the labor force, though considerably larger than the corresponding group of males. There were about 4,600,000 women in this class, of whom 2,100,000 were 18 to 24 years old and 1,200,000 were between the ages of 25 and 44 (table XI). Female relatives over 45 years of age, including mothers and mothers-in-law of heads, and elderly spinsters, widows, and divorcees living with their brothers and sisters or with other relatives, numbered about 1,300,000, excluding those unable to work.

About 2,000,000, or nearly two-thirds of the female relatives of heads (other than wives) 18 to 44 years old, were single, and therefore probably had little or no home-making responsibility that would interfere with their employment. About 900,000 were married women with husbands present in the household. The housekeeping duties of married female relatives of heads other than wives are likely to be relatively light, since comparatively few couples living with their parents have children of their own, and since the responsibility of caring for the home may be shared with the wife of the household head. The 300,000 female relatives who were widowed, divorced, or married with husband absent from the household were another group relatively free to enter the labor market.

PERSONS NOT RELATED TO HEADS, OR NOT IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

Persons not related to the household head, or not living in private households, comprised about 1,400,000 males and 1,200,000 females not in the labor force (table VIII). This class consists of lodgers and other unrelated members of private households, and persons in quasi households. Persons in quasi households include inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy; residents, other than inmates, of such institutions; and other persons not in private households, such as residents of boarding or lodging houses, the transient population of a hotel, and persons in schools and hospitals.

More than one-half of the males and nearly one-third of the females not related to the household head who were not in the labor force were inmates of institutions, and a large fraction of the remainder of the class were persons unable to work, such as aged men and women living in private boarding-houses or hotels. There were less than 400,000 men, and only about 650,000 women in this group, who were not in the labor force but were able to work and not in institutions. This small group of unrelated persons able to work was probably composed largely of boarders and transients, with few family responsibilities that would interfere with their employment.

POTENTIAL WORKERS

The distribution by household relationship of potential workers not in the labor force demonstrates the nature of one of the principal limitations upon the labor supply. The division of activities among family members is normally such that the great majority of able-bodied persons of working age are either in the labor force or engaged in home duties that restrict their outside employment. Consequently, a major increase in the labor force involves important changes in the normal patterns of family life.

The groups of persons presumably free of household duties among the 30 million potential workers were small in comparison with war labor needs (table XII). The most important sources of possible recruits to the labor force in these groups were the 1,500,000 sons and other male relatives of heads, and the 2,400,000 unmarried female relatives 18 to 44 years old. These persons included older students, many of whom have been inducted into the armed forces or temporarily deferred to complete their college training, or have left school to take war jobs, since the time of the census.

Table XII. HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP OF POTENTIAL WORKERS, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940
[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP, SEX, AND AGE	Number	Percent distribution
Total potential workers.....	29,875,540	-
Male, 18 to 64 years.....	2,274,640	100.0
Head of private household.....	527,580	23.2
Relative of head.....	1,516,040	66.6
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	231,040	10.2
Female, 18 to 44 years.....	18,121,980	100.0
Head of private household.....	434,920	2.4
Wife of head.....	14,068,200	77.6
Other relative of head.....	3,276,520	18.1
Married, husband present.....	911,180	5.0
All other.....	2,365,340	13.1
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	342,340	1.9
Female, 45 to 64 years.....	9,478,920	100.0
Head of private household.....	1,240,180	13.1
Wife of head.....	7,325,000	77.3
Other relative of head.....	775,700	8.2
Married, husband present.....	139,580	1.5
All other.....	637,120	6.7
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	187,040	1.4

PERSONS 14 AND OVER NOT IN LABOR FORCE

Any large addition to the labor force will therefore have to be taken chiefly from the large groups of women occupied with home duties. The ones who can most easily take jobs are presumably married daughters, daughters-in-law, etc., living with their parents or other relatives, but there were only about 900,000 potential workers of this type between the ages of 18 and 44. Most of the additional workers will therefore have to be drawn from the great reservoir of 21,400,000 wives of heads. Since women under 45 years old can more easily be employed than those above this age, most of the additional workers are likely to come from the 14,100,000 wives 18 to 44 years old who were potential workers, although a considerable labor reserve exists also among the 7,300,000 wives between 45 and 64.

In the past very few wives with young children in their families have been in the labor force. The majority of the wives 18 to 44 years old not in the labor force have one or more children under 10 years old. The responsibility for the care of these children rigidly limits the number of wives who can be drawn into the labor force, unless an acceptable program is developed to relieve mothers of this responsibility during working hours. Statistics showing the labor force status of women according to number of children under 5 and 5 to 9 years old, in relation to age, household relationship, occupation and income of husband, and other characteristics will appear in a later bulletin in this series.

The detailed tables in this bulletin for the United States and regions show statistics on marital status of women not in the labor force by age and color (tables 5 and 6), and on household relationships of men and women not in the labor force by age and color (tables 7 to 12).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Three kinds of information about the previous employment of persons not in the labor force were obtained in the 1940 census: (a) The number of months worked in 1939; (b) social security status, a classification showing whether the individual had a social security account number and whether social security deductions had been made from his wages in 1939; and (c) usual occupation. The data on months worked in 1939 indicate what proportion of the persons not in the labor force had recent work experience, and give some evidence of the continuity of their employment. Social security status provides an indication of earlier employment for persons who did not work in 1939, and usual major occupation group classifications give an indication of the general types of work in which persons not in the labor force have had experience or training.

WORK IN 1939

Only 2,600,000 of the 46,900,000 persons not in the labor force during the census week (excluding inmates of institutions) reported that they had worked in 1939 (table XIII).

Table XIII. WORK IN 1939 FOR PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE IN INSTITUTIONS) IN MARCH 1940, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

SEX	Total	With work in 1939	Without work in 1939	Work in 1939 not reported
Male, 14 years and over.....	9,838,100	907,140	5,601,080	2,329,880
Engaged in own home housework...	273,760	29,580	188,300	55,880
In school.....	4,588,240	221,920	3,231,100	1,075,220
Unable to work.....	2,933,400	245,920	2,201,900	505,580
Other.....	1,200,540	204,280	841,440	154,820
Employment status not reported..	822,160	145,440	188,340	538,380
Female, 14 years and over...	37,069,020	1,722,460	27,931,420	7,415,140
Engaged in own home housework...	28,411,540	1,367,360	21,977,920	5,066,260
In school.....	4,445,420	122,360	3,253,860	1,070,200
Unable to work.....	2,268,100	69,820	1,775,360	422,920
Other.....	777,960	84,460	587,800	105,720
Employment status not reported..	1,164,980	78,460	336,480	750,040
PERCENT OF TOTAL				
Male, 14 years and over.....	100.0	9.2	57.1	23.7
Engaged in own home housework...	100.0	10.8	68.8	20.4
In school.....	100.0	6.1	70.4	23.4
Unable to work.....	100.0	8.3	74.6	17.1
Other.....	100.0	17.0	70.1	12.9
Employment status not reported..	100.0	17.7	16.8	65.5
Female, 14 years and over...	100.0	4.6	75.3	20.0
Engaged in own home housework...	100.0	4.8	77.4	17.8
In school.....	100.0	2.8	73.2	24.1
Unable to work.....	100.0	3.1	78.3	18.6
Other.....	100.0	10.9	75.6	13.6
Employment status not reported..	100.0	6.7	28.9	64.4

Persons with work in 1939 are those who reported that they had worked for the equivalent of one full-time week or more during the year, for pay or profit, including public emergency work, or at unpaid family work. Persons in institutions are excluded, since information on this subject was not obtained for them.

A great many of the 2,600,000 persons not in the labor force who had worked in 1939 had probably permanently left the labor force during that year and were no longer available for employment at the time of the census. More than 300,000 of them were returned as unable to work, and some were aged persons who had recently retired.

The majority of the group who worked in 1939, however, were housewives and students, whose work experience might facilitate their absorption into the labor force. Nearly 1,400,000 women engaged in own home housework reported that they had worked in 1939. Some of these were seasonal workers, and a great many were doubtless women who had married and left the labor force after the beginning of 1939. Almost all of the 400,000 students, and many of the other persons not in the labor force were seasonal or other intermittent workers, such as young persons who had worked during the summer vacations or as part-time workers during the school year, and women in farming areas who were regularly employed as farm laborers at certain times of the year.

The data on work in 1939 are especially pertinent in an analysis of the potential labor supply, because those who have recently been employed are likely to be the most easily drawn into the labor market. Only about 1 potential worker in 16 reported that he had worked in 1939. Nearly 1 out of 5 male potential workers had worked in 1939, but the total number of male potential workers who reported work in 1939 was less than 450,000. There were slightly less than 1,500,000 female potential workers reported as having worked in 1939; 1,100,000 of these were in the age class 18 to 44 years, and about 400,000 were 45 to 64 years old (table XIV).

Table XIV. WORK IN 1939 FOR POTENTIAL WORKERS AND FOR OTHERS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE IN INSTITUTIONS) IN MARCH 1940, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

SEX AND AGE	Total	WITH WORK IN 1939		Without work in 1939	Work in 1939 not reported
		Number	Percent		
Total not in labor force (excl. in institutions)...	46,907,120	2,629,600	5.6	34,532,500	9,745,020
Potential workers.....	29,875,540	1,898,180	6.4	28,160,160	5,817,800
Male.....	2,274,640	436,360	19.2	1,247,280	591,060
Female.....	27,600,900	1,461,820	5.3	26,112,940	5,226,740
18 to 44 years old.....	18,121,960	1,104,360	6.1	17,017,600	3,431,360
45 to 64 years old.....	8,478,920	357,460	3.8	7,926,640	1,794,820
Others not in labor force.....	17,031,580	731,420	4.3	12,372,340	3,927,860
Unable to work.....	5,221,600	315,740	6.0	3,977,260	928,600
All other (excl. in institutions).....	11,810,080	415,680	3.5	8,395,080	2,999,320
14 to 17 years old.....	8,297,800	286,720	3.5	5,699,580	2,311,500
65 years old and over.....	8,512,280	128,960	1.5	2,695,500	687,820

The census figures do not give a complete account of the number of persons not in the labor force in March 1940, who had worked in 1939, because the enumerators failed to obtain complete information on this subject for one-fifth of the women and nearly one-fourth of the men not in the labor force (excluding those in institutions). Many of those who failed to report may have worked in 1939. Moreover, 1,000,000 persons not in the labor force for whom reports on months worked in 1939 were lacking, or who were reported as not having worked, nevertheless indicated that social security deductions had been made from their wages in 1939. (See "Evidence of previous employment," page 11.) Even though the statistics on work in 1939 are somewhat deficient, they still show clearly that few of the potential workers not in the labor force at the time of the census had recently been employed. This fact points to the importance of training and retraining programs to facilitate expansion of the war labor supply.

Months worked.— More than one-third of the persons not in the labor force who reported any work in 1939, stated that they had worked throughout the year. Persons who had worked 12 months constituted about 26 percent of the males and 43 percent of the females reporting that they had worked in 1939 (table XV). Well over one-fourth had worked less than 4 months, and about one-fourth had worked 4 to 8 months.

Persons reporting less than 12 months of work in 1939 include not only those who were employed for only a part of the year, but also some who worked on part-time jobs throughout the year. Instructions called for reporting work in 1939 in terms of equivalent full-time weeks worked, a full-time week being defined as the number of hours locally regarded as full time for a given occupation and industry.

Table XV. MONTHS WORKED IN 1939 BY PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE IN INSTITUTIONS) IN MARCH 1940, WHO WORKED IN 1939, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

SEX	Total with work in 1939	Less than 4 months	4 to 8 months	9 to 11 months	12 months
Total not in labor force (exc. in institutions)....	2,629,600	750,920	657,360	250,200	971,120
Engaged in own home housework.....	1,396,940	332,720	291,320	110,260	662,640
In school.....	404,280	254,960	108,100	16,620	30,600
Unable to work.....	315,740	72,380	108,940	49,660	85,360
Other.....	268,740	52,080	101,120	39,680	85,860
Employment status not reported....	223,900	28,780	54,480	33,980	106,660
Male.....	907,140	297,100	268,480	102,680	238,880
Engaged in own home housework.....	29,580	4,760	6,280	3,120	15,420
In school.....	281,920	178,640	71,480	10,580	21,220
Unable to work.....	245,920	56,280	85,720	38,220	65,700
Other.....	204,280	40,820	68,880	28,720	55,860
Employment status not reported....	145,440	16,500	36,120	22,040	70,680
Female.....	1,722,460	453,820	388,880	147,520	732,240
Engaged in own home housework.....	1,367,360	327,960	285,040	107,140	647,220
In school.....	122,360	76,320	30,620	6,040	9,380
Unable to work.....	69,820	16,100	22,620	11,440	19,660
Other.....	84,460	21,260	32,240	10,960	20,000
Employment status not reported....	78,460	12,180	18,360	11,940	35,980
PERCENT OF TOTAL					
Male.....	100.0	32.8	29.6	11.3	26.3
Engaged in own home housework.....	100.0	16.1	21.2	10.5	52.1
In school.....	100.0	63.4	25.4	3.8	7.5
Unable to work.....	100.0	22.9	34.9	15.5	26.7
Other.....	100.0	20.0	38.7	14.1	32.2
Employment status not reported....	100.0	11.4	24.8	15.2	48.6
Female.....	100.0	26.3	22.6	8.6	42.5
Engaged in own home housework.....	100.0	24.0	20.8	7.8	47.3
In school.....	100.0	62.4	23.0	4.9	7.7
Unable to work.....	100.0	23.1	32.4	16.4	28.2
Other.....	100.0	25.2	38.2	13.0	23.7
Employment status not reported....	100.0	15.5	23.4	15.2	45.9

In the tables in this bulletin, the returns for weeks worked have been converted into months, because a large proportion of the reports were only approximate and did not represent valid statements of the precise number of weeks of work.³ The groupings of months worked that are used in this bulletin, together with their equivalents in terms of the original reports of weeks worked, are listed below:

Number of months worked	Reported number of weeks worked
Without work in 1939.....	0 weeks
With work in 1939:	
Less than 2 months.....	1 to 6 weeks
2 months.....	7 to 10 weeks
3 months.....	11 to 14 weeks
4 or 5 months.....	15 to 23 weeks
6 to 8 months.....	24 to 35 weeks
9 to 11 months.....	36 to 49 weeks
12 months.....	50 to 52 weeks

The group of persons not in the labor force who had worked 12 months in 1939 was composed chiefly of former full-time workers who had retired from the labor force during the three-month period between the end of the year 1939 and the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. The majority of these persons were engaged in own home housework or unable to work at the time of the census. Some women engaged in own home housework were incorrectly reported as having worked 12 months, by enumerators who failed to distinguish properly between own home housework and work for pay or profit.

Over six-tenths of the persons in school at the time of the census who had worked in 1939 reported less than 4 months of work, and nine-tenths reported less than nine months. Most of these students had probably been employed as seasonal workers during the summer vacation. There were probably also many seasonal workers among the 610,000 women engaged in own home

³ This lack of precision was evidenced by a marked tendency for enumerators to report weeks worked in multiples of 4 weeks, indicating that they had ascertained 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 error that resulted from the enumerator's procedure of multiplying the number of months by four instead of by four and one-third. The class intervals were so chosen that the weekly equivalent of any given number of months would always fall in the same interval, whether the conversion was made on the basis of four or four and one-third weeks per month. Thus, nine months might be figured incorrectly as 36 weeks or correctly as 39 weeks, but both figures fall in the group 36 to 49 weeks, which is equivalent to 9 to 11 months. In the case of 12 months, however, this procedure was not used, since it was apparent that enumerators had seldom used 48 weeks as the equivalent of 12 months.

housework who had worked less than 9 months in 1939, and among other persons not in the labor force who reported less than 9 months of work. Some of the persons who had worked for short periods, however, were part-time workers who had been employed only a few hours each week throughout the year, any many were former full-time workers who had left the labor force early in 1939.

Seasonal labor is especially important in rural-farm areas, where a great many women and children work on the home farm during the seasons when extra labor is required, and return to school or to housekeeping for the remainder of the year (table XVI). However, a comparatively large proportion of rural-farm women engaged in own home housework were reported as having worked throughout the year 1939. A large part of this group were probably engaged in minor farm chores, such as feeding chickens, raising vegetables, and selling eggs, butter, and other farm products, in addition to their housekeeping duties. On a farm it is very often difficult to distinguish clearly between work for pay or profit or unpaid family work on the one hand, and incidental chores and home housework on the other. The data both on labor force status and on months worked in 1939 are therefore less precise for rural-farm than for other areas.

Table XVI. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY MONTHS WORKED IN 1939, FOR PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE IN INSTITUTIONS) IN MARCH 1940, WHO WORKED IN 1939, BY SEX, FOR URBAN AND RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

MONTHS WORKED IN 1939	MALE			FEMALE		
	Urban	Rural-nonnfarm	Rural-farm	Urban	Rural-nonnfarm	Rural-farm
Total not in labor force (exc. in institutions).....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 4 months.....	30.8	36.2	33.1	33.4	29.6	18.7
4 to 8 months.....	29.3	30.2	29.6	28.5	20.1	18.6
9 to 11 months.....	12.7	11.7	8.9	11.7	7.6	6.4
12 months.....	27.3	21.9	28.5	26.4	42.7	56.3
Engaged in own home housework.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 4 months.....	15.6	24.4	12.0	34.2	27.6	14.8
4 to 8 months.....	28.6	24.4	16.6	28.9	18.8	15.9
9 to 11 months.....	12.1	6.5	11.0	10.5	6.9	6.3
12 months.....	43.7	44.8	60.4	26.4	46.8	63.0
In school.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 4 months.....	65.2	72.2	57.1	66.2	71.5	56.6
4 to 8 months.....	20.5	17.3	34.2	16.9	16.5	38.5
9 to 11 months.....	4.6	3.1	3.2	7.7	4.5	3.2
12 months.....	9.7	7.4	5.5	9.2	7.6	6.7
Other¹.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 4 months.....	20.0	28.6	16.2	23.4	30.5	25.2
4 to 8 months.....	34.0	38.1	28.8	34.9	35.0	46.7
9 to 11 months.....	14.4	13.6	14.0	15.1	12.4	9.2
12 months.....	31.6	24.7	41.1	26.6	22.2	18.9

¹ Excluding persons unable to work and those for whom employment status was not reported.

The detailed tables on months worked in 1939 (tables 13 to 17) show the distribution by months worked for each category of persons not in the labor force except those in institutions, and data on months worked by age and by household relationship, for the United States and for each region.

USUAL OCCUPATION

The usual occupations reported for persons not in the labor force serve as an inventory of the types of skill and training to be found among possible recruits to the labor market. Each person 14 years old and over who had ever worked continuously for one month or more was asked to report the occupation that he regarded as his usual occupation and at which he was physically able to work. About 4,800,000 persons not in the labor force reported usual occupations, representing about one-fifth of the males and one-tenth of the females who were not in the labor force but able to work and not in institutions at the time of the census. The 5,400,000 males and 31,500,000 females who did not report usual occupations included inexperienced persons who had never had a job for one month or more, some persons who had usual occupations but failed to report them, and many persons who had been out of the labor force so long that they regarded themselves as no longer having a usual occupation.

The census figures do not give a complete account of the number of persons not in the labor force who had training or experience in each occupation, not only because some persons failed to report their usual occupations but also because those who had been employed in several kinds of work were asked to report only the one they regarded as their usual occupation.

PERSONS 14 AND OVER NOT IN LABOR FORCE

The occupation statistics presented in this bulletin are in terms of 11 major groupings of the 451 specific occupation titles of the 1940 occupational classification system used by the Bureau of the Census. The items in the list of 451 occupations that are included in each of the 11 major groups presented here, are shown in the third series of Population bulletins. (See also page 13.) A more detailed classification of usual occupation for persons not in the labor force will be given in a later publication.

Household relationships of persons reporting usual occupation.—The majority of the males not in the labor force who

reported usual occupations (excluding those unable to work or in institutions) were probably not potential workers. About 650,000 out of the total of 1,400,000 males reporting occupations were heads of households, a group composed largely of older men who were unlikely to return to the labor force; and about 250,000 were sons and other relatives 14 to 17 years old (table XVII). The young men, who could most easily be employed as additional workers, were relatively inexperienced; only one-fourth of the male relatives 18 years old and over reported a usual occupation.

Table XVII. USUAL MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE UNABLE TO WORK OR IN INSTITUTIONS), BY HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP, AGE, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP, AGE, AND SEX	REPORTING USUAL OCCUPATION													
	Total	Total reporting usual occupation		Profes- sional and semi- professional workers	Farmers and farm managers	Propri- etors, managers, and offi- cials, exc. farm	Clerical, sales, and kindred workers	Crafts- men, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kin- dred workers	Domestic service workers	Protective service workers	Service workers, exc. domestic and protec- tive	Farm laborers and farm foremen	Labor- ers, except farm
		Number	Percent											
Male, 14 years and over..	6,884,700	1,438,500	20.9	83,720	171,400	107,040	168,320	186,320	167,800	8,740	25,000	52,380	306,060	161,700
Head of private household.....	1,062,880	645,000	60.7	47,120	112,900	82,840	68,940	122,080	74,760	3,160	17,700	16,620	30,700	68,180
Relative of head.....	5,450,540	650,040	11.9	24,440	50,680	16,700	82,380	43,580	71,640	4,140	5,140	25,120	258,640	67,500
14 to 17 years old.....	3,819,540	249,220	6.5	2,040	8,500	1,960	26,480	5,860	19,380	860	420	9,160	157,160	17,400
18 years old and over.....	1,631,000	400,820	24.6	22,400	42,180	14,740	55,900	37,720	52,260	3,280	4,720	15,960	101,480	50,180
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	371,280	143,460	38.6	12,160	7,820	7,500	17,000	20,660	21,400	1,440	2,150	10,640	16,740	25,940
Female, 14 years and over	34,800,920	3,337,400	9.6	379,960	82,380	51,800	953,240	42,320	644,280	594,060	1,700	329,120	213,260	46,260
Head of private household.....	2,612,260	293,380	11.3	39,620	15,300	9,700	46,780	3,640	56,240	77,020	1,160	34,620	8,680	3,520
Wife of head.....	22,682,480	2,332,300	9.8	251,000	51,400	32,040	704,380	30,020	474,060	333,700	1,160	210,680	112,900	30,760
14 to 44 years old.....	14,160,600	1,723,760	12.2	191,380	29,100	19,440	604,460	19,180	362,820	219,680	660	172,400	81,840	23,900
45 years old and over.....	8,521,880	508,540	6.0	59,620	22,900	12,600	99,920	10,840	111,840	114,020	500	38,480	31,560	6,860
Other relative of head.....	8,834,540	679,780	7.7	65,500	14,720	8,040	179,080	7,700	100,960	141,520	260	62,940	88,380	10,880
14 to 17 years old.....	4,226,220	102,860	2.4	2,000	2,940	1,120	16,460	2,000	8,740	17,340	40	5,520	48,200	3,500
18 to 44 years old.....	3,276,520	444,820	13.6	44,000	7,640	3,080	139,800	3,560	68,700	86,460	140	45,920	39,100	6,420
Married, husband present.....	911,180	144,820	15.9	11,860	1,600	980	52,580	1,380	31,080	21,400	-	16,700	5,480	1,760
All other.....	2,365,340	300,000	12.7	32,140	6,040	2,100	87,220	2,180	37,620	65,060	140	29,220	33,620	4,660
45 years old and over.....	1,351,800	132,100	9.8	19,500	4,140	3,840	22,820	2,140	23,520	37,720	80	11,500	6,080	760
Married, husband present.....	137,240	12,140	6.5	1,280	500	400	2,460	200	2,600	2,760	40	1,000	620	100
All other.....	1,164,560	119,960	10.3	18,240	3,640	3,440	20,360	1,940	20,920	34,960	40	10,500	5,260	660
Not relative of head, and not in private household.....	651,640	129,940	19.9	23,840	960	2,020	23,000	960	12,920	41,820	120	19,680	3,800	1,320

The 400,000 male relatives of heads, over 18 years old, who did report a usual occupation had been employed mostly in occupations that require comparatively little skill and experience. About 100,000 of them reported occupations in the major group "farm laborers and farm foremen," and 50,000 were in the group "laborers, except farm." About 50,000 male relatives were found in each of the groups "clerical, sales, and kindred workers" and "operatives and kindred workers." Only about 117,000 returned usual occupations in the groups of professional and semiprofessional workers; farmers or other proprietors, managers, and officials; and craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers. The majority of the males who reported the latter types of usual occupations were household heads. On the whole, there was a very slender reserve of male potential workers not in the labor force who had experience in professional, managerial, and skilled occupations.

The 3,300,000 women not in the labor force who reported usual occupations (excluding those unable to work or in institutions) included over 2,200,000 wives of household heads, 1,700,000 of whom were in the age group under 45 years, from which additional workers can most easily be drawn. In addition, the group included 450,000 daughters and other female relatives of heads 18 to 44 years old.

The women best qualified for war jobs were the wives of household heads. About 700,000 of them reported usual occupations in the group "clerical, sales, and kindred workers," including many stenographers and typists. About 475,000 reported occupations in the group "operatives and kindred workers," including semi-skilled workers whose experience would be useful in the factories producing war goods. Another 250,000 wives reported professional and semiprofessional occupations; many of these were formerly nurses and teachers. A fairly large number of female relatives other than wives of heads, 18 to 44 years old, also reported usual occupations of these types, including 140,000 clerical, sales, and kindred workers, nearly 70,000 operatives, and 44,000 professional and semiprofessional workers. Wives and other female relatives of heads frequently reported themselves as domestic and other service workers and farm laborers.

Most of the wives and other female relatives of heads, however, reported no usual occupation at all. Less than 10 percent of the wives of heads, and less than 14 percent of the

female relatives 18 to 44 years old, reported a usual occupation. Some women engaged in own home housework who had been out of the labor force for a number of years probably considered themselves usually "housewives," and did not believe the occupation at which they had previously worked should be reported as their usual occupation.

Usual occupation of rural-farm persons not in the labor force.—In rural-farm areas the great majority of the men who reported usual occupations had been farmers or farm laborers and most of the women had been farmers, farm laborers, or domestic servants. Many who reported no usual occupation had done routine chores, and were familiar with farm work. The rural-farm labor reserve can therefore be drawn relatively easily into the agricultural labor force, to replace farm workers who migrate to the cities or are inducted into military service.

Usual occupation of nonwhites.—The paramount importance of training new recruits to the labor market to fit them for war jobs is most clearly demonstrated by the usual occupation reports for nonwhites not in the labor force. A much higher proportion of nonwhites than of whites reported usual occupations, especially in the case of females, but the occupations reported revealed that the nonwhites possessed a minimum of training and experience in the occupations in which critical labor shortages exist. Nearly one-half of the nonwhite males not in the labor force but able to work and not in institutions, who reported usual occupations, had been employed as farm laborers; one-fifth reported usual occupations of laborers, other than farm; and one-twenty-fifth reported occupations in the major group of craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers (table XVIII). For white males, by contrast, the corresponding proportions were one-fifth farm laborers, one-tenth laborers (except farm), and one-seventh craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers. These differences correspond roughly to the differences in occupational distribution of whites and nonwhites in the labor force.

For females the contrast between the color groups was even more marked. The occupation "domestic service worker" was reported by 46 percent of the nonwhite women not in the labor force reporting usual occupations (excluding those unable to work and in institutions), as compared with 14 percent of the whites; "farm laborer" was indicated by 32 percent of the

nonwhites but by only 3 percent of the whites. On the other hand, professional and semiprofessional occupations were returned by only 3 percent of the nonwhite women and by 13 percent of the whites; occupations in the "clerical, sales, and kindred worker" group were reported by 1 percent of the nonwhite, as compared with 32 percent of the white women; and persons reporting occupations in the "operative and kindred worker" group comprised only 6 percent of the nonwhites, as compared with 21 percent of the whites.

Table XVIII. USUAL MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE (EXCEPT THOSE UNABLE TO WORK OR IN INSTITUTIONS), BY COLOR AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

USUAL MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP	MALE		FEMALE	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
Total not in labor force, 14 years and over.....	6,342,440	542,260	32,125,000	2,675,920
Reporting usual occupation.....	1,314,120	124,380	2,936,520	400,880
Percent reporting.....	20.7	22.9	9.1	15.0
Professional and semiprofessional workers..	80,740	2,980	359,000	10,960
Farmers and farm managers.....	161,180	10,220	85,580	16,800
Proprietors, managers, & off'ls, exc. farm.	105,940	1,100	51,180	680
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	166,020	2,300	947,960	5,280
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.....	181,960	4,360	41,620	700
Operatives and kindred workers.....	158,640	9,160	618,820	25,460
Domestic service workers.....	5,320	3,430	411,760	182,300
Protective service workers.....	24,460	540	1,640	80
Service workers, exc. domestic & protective	43,020	9,360	303,740	24,380
Farm laborers and farm foremen.....	249,180	56,900	85,460	127,780
Laborers, except farm.....	137,660	24,040	39,800	6,480
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
Reporting usual occupation.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional and semiprofessional workers..	6.1	2.4	12.6	2.7
Farmers and farm managers.....	12.3	8.2	2.2	4.2
Proprietors, managers, & off'ls, exc. farm.	8.1	0.9	1.7	0.2
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	12.6	1.6	32.3	1.3
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.....	13.8	3.5	1.4	0.2
Operatives and kindred workers.....	12.1	7.4	21.1	6.4
Domestic service workers.....	0.4	2.7	14.0	45.5
Protective service workers.....	1.9	0.4	0.1	-
Service workers, exc. domestic & protective	3.3	7.5	10.3	6.1
Farm laborers and farm foremen.....	19.0	45.7	2.9	31.9
Laborers, except farm.....	10.5	19.3	1.4	1.6

These statistics demonstrate the necessity of a large-scale training program for nonwhite candidates for war jobs, in order to insure effective utilization of the potential supply of nonwhite workers.

The data on usual major occupation group of persons not in the labor force are presented in tables 18 to 20, by age, sex, color, and relationship to household head, for the United States and for regions.

SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS

The classification by social security status of persons not in the labor force offers another indication of previous labor market participation. For this classification, each person 14 years old and over was asked to state whether he had a Federal social security account number, and if so, whether deductions for Old-Age and Survivors Insurance or Railroad Retirement were made from his wages or salary in 1939. The data on deductions from wages, like those on months worked, refer to the year 1939, but the classification by account-number status gives an indication of labor market activity for a much longer period, since all persons who had ever been given social security numbers were to be reported as having account numbers at the time of the census. Many types of previous employment, however, are not covered. Persons who had worked only for government agencies, charitable or other nonprofit organizations, in agriculture, in domestic service, or as employers, own-account workers, or unpaid family workers, would be unlikely to have social security numbers, since these types of employment are not covered by the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Railroad Retirement laws. On the other hand, some persons who had never been employed may have obtained social security account numbers for possible later use.

There were 3,800,000 persons not in the labor force at the time of the census who reported that they had social security numbers. Of these, 1,800,000 reported that deductions had been made from their wages in 1939 (table XIX). The proportion having social security numbers was much smaller in rural-farm areas than elsewhere, because agricultural labor is not covered by the social security system.

A comparison of the census figures with estimates of the total number of living account-number holders at the time of the census, made by the Social Security Board, indicates that

a great many persons having social security numbers failed to report their status properly to the census enumerators. According to the Social Security Board's estimates, there were about 47,000,000 persons with social security or Railroad Retirement numbers on April 1, 1940, but only 33,500,000 persons 14 years old and over were reported in the census as having account numbers. Nearly 20,000,000 persons failed to report whether or not they had a social security account number. It was difficult for enumerators to get accurate reports on this subject especially for persons not in the labor force, since the respondent was likely to have forgotten that he had a social security number. This was probably true also for persons in the labor force who had received account numbers several years earlier and who were no longer in employment covered by the social security law. The data on account-number status for persons not in the labor force are useful, nevertheless, as additional evidence of past labor force participation.

Table XIX. SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS OF ALL PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE, AND OF POTENTIAL WORKERS, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS	United States	Urban	Rural-nonfarm	Rural-farm
Total not in labor force.....	48,049,460	26,952,260	10,311,460	10,785,740
With social security number.....	3,834,140	2,719,020	787,840	327,280
With deductions in 1939.....	1,763,660	1,321,120	350,940	131,600
Without deductions in 1939.....	1,379,980	958,300	281,480	123,060
No report on deductions.....	450,500	478,400	145,480	55,680
Without social security number.....	31,059,840	17,356,520	5,432,580	7,270,740
No report on social security number	13,145,480	6,866,720	3,031,040	2,187,720
Potential workers.....	29,875,540	15,860,200	6,105,020	5,910,320
With social security number.....	2,801,060	2,005,020	551,120	243,920
With deductions in 1939.....	1,301,080	952,100	249,280	99,700
Without deductions in 1939.....	955,360	700,820	199,880	94,680
No report on deductions.....	504,600	353,100	101,960	49,540
Without social security number.....	19,215,420	10,726,900	3,832,400	4,556,120
No report on social security number	7,859,060	4,127,280	1,721,500	2,010,280

Statistics on social security status of persons not in the labor force by work in 1939, age, sex, and color for the United States are presented in tables 21 and 22 of the detailed tables.

EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

The evidence of previous employment for potential workers that could be obtained from the census schedules is assembled in the cross-tabulation of months worked in 1939, social security status, and usual occupation, summarized in table XX. The number of potential workers who reported either one or more weeks of work in 1939, or social security deductions from their wages in 1939, represents the total with any evidence of having been employed in 1939. Persons without evidence of employment in 1939 are classified according to whether they reported a social security number, and whether they stated a usual occupation, in order to determine how many showed any evidence of previous employment. The great majority of persons who reported neither work nor social security deductions in 1939, but who had either a social security number or a usual occupation, were probably employed before 1939.

Eighty percent of the potential workers showed no evidence of previous employment. Only 9 percent gave evidence of having worked in 1939, and the remaining 11 percent reported a social security number or a usual occupation, but did not indicate that they had been employed in 1939. The proportions with evidence of previous employment were greatest for the male potential workers; one-fourth of the males gave indications of employment in 1939, and in all, nearly one-half showed evidence of employment at some time in the past. The number of female potential workers who reported evidence of previous employment, either in 1939 or at other times in the past, was much greater than the number of males, but in proportion to the total of female potential workers, the number with evidence of previous employment was relatively quite small. Less than 8 percent of all female potential workers showed evidence of employment in 1939, and only 18 percent all together gave evidence of having worked at any time in the past.

All three types of data bearing on previous employment are somewhat defective, and even the combination of the three does not give a complete account of previous employment of persons not in the labor force. The deficiencies in the data relating to employment in 1939 are indicated by the fact that 800,000 potential workers who failed to report regarding work in 1939 or reported that they did not work, stated that social security deductions from their wages had been made in 1939. Some persons may have answered the question on social security

deductions with reference to some time other than the year 1939, answering affirmatively if deductions from their wages had been made in any previous year. Both the data on work in 1939 and those on social security deductions probably understate the number of persons who were actually employed during that year, since a large number of persons not in the labor force failed to answer either of these questions. Likewise, many persons who did not report whether they had a social security number and gave no usual occupation, had probably been employed in the past.¹

Table XX. EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT OF POTENTIAL WORKERS, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on a 5-percent sample]

SEX, AGE, AND EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT	United States	Urban and rural-nonnfarm	Rural-farm
Total potential workers.....	29,875,540	22,965,220	6,910,320
With evidence of employment in 1939.....	2,708,900	1,923,580	779,320
With work in 1939.....	1,898,180	1,176,460	721,720
With social security deductions in 1939 ²	804,720	747,120	57,600
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	27,176,640	21,041,640	6,131,000
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	3,278,940	2,812,860	466,080
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	23,897,700	18,228,780	5,668,920
Male, 18 to 64 years old.....	2,274,640	1,839,280	435,360
With evidence of employment in 1939 ³	565,580	443,200	122,380
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	1,709,060	1,396,080	312,980
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	481,740	367,900	113,840
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	1,227,320	1,028,180	199,140
Female, 18 to 44 years old.....	18,121,980	13,820,260	4,301,720
With evidence of employment in 1939 ³	1,676,700	1,204,280	472,420
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	16,445,280	12,615,980	3,829,300
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	2,115,420	1,853,400	262,020
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	14,329,860	10,762,580	3,567,280
Female, 45 to 64 years old.....	9,478,920	7,305,680	2,173,240
With evidence of employment in 1939 ³	460,620	276,100	184,520
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	9,018,300	7,029,580	1,988,720
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	681,780	591,560	90,220
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	8,336,520	6,438,020	1,898,500
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION			
Total potential workers.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
With evidence of employment in 1939.....	9.0	8.4	11.3
With work in 1939.....	6.4	5.1	10.4
With social security deductions in 1939 ²	2.7	3.3	0.8
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	91.0	91.6	88.7
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	11.0	12.2	6.7
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	80.0	79.4	82.0
Male, 18 to 64 years old.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
With evidence of employment in 1939 ³	24.9	24.1	28.1
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	75.1	75.9	71.9
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	21.2	20.0	26.1
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	54.0	55.9	45.7
Female, 18 to 44 years old.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
With evidence of employment in 1939 ³	9.3	8.7	11.0
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	90.7	91.3	89.0
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	11.7	13.4	6.1
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	79.1	77.9	82.9
Female, 45 to 64 years old.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
With evidence of employment in 1939 ³	4.9	3.8	8.5
Without evidence of employment in 1939.....	95.1	96.2	91.5
With social security number or reporting usual occupation.....	7.2	8.1	4.2
Without social security number ² and not reporting usual occupation.....	87.9	88.1	87.4

¹ Excludes persons with work in 1939.

² Includes persons not reporting on social security number.

³ Persons reporting either work in 1939 or social security deductions from wages in 1939.

Data on evidence of previous employment for each category of persons not in the labor force (except those in institutions), with data by age, sex, and color, for the United States and regions, are presented in tables 23 to 25.

APPLICATION OF THE DATA TO ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY

Statistics showing the composition of the population not in the labor force are essential materials for planning the

mobilization of labor resources during the war. The size of the war labor force cannot be predicted on the basis of these data, since the number of workers needed will depend on ultimate military requirements for men and materials, the productive capacity of the nation's industries and the extent to which they can be converted to war work, and other factors beyond the scope of these statistics. The figures in this bulletin show, however, what population groups are the main potential sources of additional labor supply, and thus indicate what kinds of measures may be needed to bring a given number of workers into the labor force. They also indicate the characteristics of the group who will probably take war jobs, their distribution by sex, age, color, and household relationship, their previous experience in the labor market, and their geographical location. This information is useful for planning training and relocation programs and other steps to facilitate the absorption of the new recruits into the labor force.

Internal migration since 1940 has contributed greatly to the supply of labor in the principal centers of war industry, at the expense of rural areas, small towns, and cities with relatively few essential industries. Most of the migrants, however, were probably in the labor force before migration, so that they have probably contributed relatively little to the reserves of potential workers in areas of labor shortage.

The number and characteristics of persons not in the labor force, as well as their geographical distribution, have been considerably altered since the time of the census by the induction of several million young men into the armed forces, large increases in employment in war industries, mass migrations into the centers of war production, and increases in the marriage and birth rates. These changes should be taken into account in applying the census data to the present problem of labor supply.

All parts of the reservoir of unused labor supply have doubtless been drawn upon to some extent. The number of young men not in the labor force has decreased considerably since 1940. Many older students have gone into military service, and many boys leaving high school and young college students have taken jobs instead of continuing their education. At the same time the increasing employment of women in war jobs has reduced the reserve of young women not in the labor force, especially in areas of critical labor shortages. Moreover, rising marriage rates have increased the proportion of married women, and the rising birth rate has increased the proportion with responsibilities for the care of young children, among the women who are still not in the labor force. There has also been some reduction in the number of older men not in the labor force, resulting from reemployment of retired workers who were still able to work. These changes, however, have not fundamentally altered the composition of the potential labor supply shown by the census figures.

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 one-fifth of the 2,000,000 persons for whom employment status was not reported; and (b) those for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine whether they were in the labor force, representing four-fifths of the total. The entire category is included in the total of persons not in the labor force, in the 1940 census reports, because most of the persons in the latter group were in classes 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, and another 20 percent were married women living with their husbands; only 10 percent were men between the ages of 25 and 64. The majority 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 probably due to the enumerator's belief that the questions were not applicable to students, housewives, and aged persons.

Only 18 percent of the males for whom employment status was not reported, and 7 percent of the females, reported that they had worked in 1939 (table 13).

On the basis of this evidence, it is estimated that probably not more than 500,000 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 relationship, and months worked in 1939 for persons for whom

employment status was not reported are given in tables 1-8, 13, 14, 21, and 23. Additional information regarding the characteristics of these persons will be presented in a later publication.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE TABULATIONS

The statistics in this bulletin are based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the 1940 census returns. The totals for the various categories of persons not in the labor force differ slightly from the corresponding figures obtained from the complete tabulations, which appear in the United States Summary for the second series Population bulletins. The two sets of figures for the United States by sex and urban and rural residence are presented in table XXI, in order to show the magnitude of the adjustments that would be needed to bring the five-percent sample figures in this bulletin into exact agreement with the complete tabulations.

Table XXI. PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY SEX, ACCORDING TO THE COMPLETE COUNT AND THE SAMPLE TABULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

AREA	MALE		FEMALE	
	Based on complete count	Based on 5-percent sample	Based on complete count	Based on 5-percent sample
UNITED STATES				
Not in labor force.....	10,609,508	10,585,040	37,703,917	37,464,420
Engaged in own home housework.....	267,125	278,760	28,664,744	28,411,540
In school.....	4,593,630	4,588,240	4,419,718	4,445,420
Unable to work.....	2,966,225	2,959,400	2,302,502	2,268,100
In institutions.....	767,474	746,940	409,513	395,400
Other and not reported.....	2,015,054	2,032,700	1,907,440	1,942,960
URBAN				
Not in labor force.....	5,911,338	5,877,440	21,165,668	21,074,820
Engaged in own home housework.....	151,310	151,900	15,931,241	15,825,850
In school.....	2,637,174	2,634,800	2,498,245	2,521,740
Unable to work.....	1,663,891	1,652,780	1,432,229	1,414,620
In institutions.....	298,853	288,120	169,983	160,980
Other and not reported.....	1,160,110	1,150,840	1,113,970	1,131,620
RURAL-NONFARM				
Not in labor force.....	2,559,771	2,562,960	7,805,509	7,745,480
Engaged in own home housework.....	54,081	57,180	5,918,615	5,863,950
In school.....	905,647	902,940	866,607	865,580
Unable to work.....	745,010	738,900	456,419	447,100
In institutions.....	783,158	778,660	178,117	177,720
Other and not reported.....	480,875	490,300	386,751	398,100
RURAL-FARM				
Not in labor force.....	2,138,399	2,144,620	8,731,740	8,541,120
Engaged in own home housework.....	61,734	64,890	6,814,898	6,721,700
In school.....	1,050,809	1,051,000	1,054,860	1,058,100
Unable to work.....	559,324	561,720	413,854	406,380
In institutions.....	92,463	85,160	41,419	36,700
Other and not reported.....	374,069	382,060	406,719	418,240

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 biases in coding, card-punching, and machine tabulation. An analysis of the statistics based on tabulations of the five-percent sample for items that were obtained also for the total population indicates that in 95 percent of the cases the sample statistics differ from the complete census statistics by less than 5 percent for numbers of 10,000 or more, by less than 10 percent for numbers between 5,000 and 10,000, and by less than 20 percent for numbers between 2,000 and 5,000. Somewhat larger variations may be expected in numbers below 2,000. Even for these small numbers, however, the majority of the differences between the sample and complete statistics are less than 10 percent, although much larger differences occasionally occur.

In a forthcoming technical bulletin there will be a detailed exposition of the sampling method, descriptions of the various samples that were taken, and comparisons between the samples and complete count. The purpose of the bulletin will be to assist in evaluating the data that are published on the basis of the samples.

UNPUBLISHED DATA

Some of the data on characteristics of persons not in the labor force that were tabulated have been omitted from the tables in this bulletin, partly because of space limitations and partly 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 nonwhites in the Northeastern States, the North Central States, and the West have been omitted from nearly all of the tables. All of the statistics that are presented for the United States are available, however, in unpublished form for each region.

In addition, numerous data on the characteristics of persons in institutions or unable to work, which were obtained as a by-product of the tabulations made for other categories of persons not in the labor force, have been omitted. All of the data presented for persons not in the labor force other than those in institutions or unable to work, are available also for the latter categories in combination. Finally, an unpublished tabulation is available showing the distribution by social security status of persons not in the labor force, by household relationship, color, and sex.

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

OCCUPATIONS INCLUDED IN EACH MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP

("N.e.c." is used as an abbreviation for "not elsewhere classified")

Professional Workers: Artists and art teachers; Authors, editors, and reporters; Chemists, assayers, and metallurgists; Clergymen; College presidents, professors, and instructors; Dentists; Engineers, technical; Lawyers and judges; Musicians and music teachers; Pharmacists; Physicians and surgeons; Teachers (n.e.c.); Trained nurses and student nurses; Actors and actresses; Architects; County agents and farm demonstrators; Librarians; Osteopaths; Social and welfare workers; Veterinarians; Professional workers (n.e.c.).

Semiprofessional Workers: Designers and draftsmen; Funeral directors and embalmers; Photographers; Religious workers; Technicians; Athletes; Aviators; Chiropractors; Dancers, dancing teachers, and chorus girls; Healers and medical service workers (n.e.c.); Optometrists; Radio and wireless operators; Showmen; Sports instructors and officials; Surveyors; Semiprofessional workers (n.e.c.).

Farmers and Farm Managers: Farmers (owners and tenants); Farm managers.

Proprietors, Managers, and Officials, except Farm: Advertising agents; Conductors, railroad; Inspectors, government; Public officials (n.e.c.); Buyers and department heads, store; Country buyers and shippers of livestock and other farm products; Credit men; Floormen and floormanagers, store; Managers and superintendents, building; Officers, pilots, pursers, and engineers, ship; Officials, lodge, society, union, etc.; Postmasters; Purchasing agents and buyers (n.e.c.); Proprietors, managers, and officials (n.e.c.).

Clerical, Sales, and Kindred Workers: Agents (n.e.c.); Bookkeepers, accountants, and cashiers; "Clerks" in stores; Mail carriers; Messengers, errand, and office boys and girls; Shipping and receiving clerks; Stenographers, typists, and secretaries; Telegraph operators; Telephone operators; Ticket, station, and express agents; Attendants and assistants, library; Attendants, physicians' and dentists' offices; Baggage-men, transportation; Collectors, bill and account; Express messengers and railway mail clerks; Office machine operators; Telegraph messengers; Clerical and kindred workers (n.e.c.); Canvassers and solicitors; Hucksters and peddlers; Insurance agents and brokers; Real estate agents and brokers; Traveling salesmen and sales agents; Auctioneers; Demonstrators; Newsboys; Salesmen, finance, brokerage, and commission firms; Salesmen and saleswomen (n.e.c.).

Craftsmen, Foremen, and Kindred Workers: Bakers; Blacksmiths, forgemen, and hammermen; Boilermakers; Brickmasons, stonemasons, and tile setters; Carpenters; Compositors and typesetters; Decorators and window dressers; Electricians; Foremen (n.e.c.); Inspectors (n.e.c.); Jewelers, watchmakers, goldsmiths, and silversmiths; Locomotive engineers; Locomotive firemen; Machinists, millwrights, and tool makers; Mechanics and repairmen; Molders, metal; Painters, construction and maintenance; Paperhangers; Pattern and model makers, except paper; Plasterers; Plumbers and gas and steam fitters; Roofers and slaters; Sawyers; Shoemakers and repairers (not in factory); Stationary engineers, cranemen, hoistmen, etc.; Tailors and tailoresses; Tinsmiths, coppersmiths, and sheet metal workers; Upholsterers; Cabinetmakers; Cement and concrete finishers; Electrotypers and stereotypers; Engravers (except photoengravers); Furriers; Glaziers; Heat treaters, annealers,

and temperers; Inspectors, scalers, and graders, log and lumber; Loom fixers; Millers, grain, flour, feed, etc.; Opticians and lens grinders and polishers; Photoengravers and lithographers; Piano and organ tuners; Pressmen and plate printers, printing; Rollers and roll hands, metal; Stonecutters and stone carvers; Structural and ornamental metal workers.

Operatives and Kindred Workers: Apprentices; Attendants, filling station, parking lot, garage, and airport; Brakemen, railroad; Chauffeurs and drivers, bus, taxi, truck, and tractor; Conductors, bus and street railway; Deliverymen; Dress-makers and seamstresses (not in factory); Filers, grinders, buffers, and polishers, metal; Firemen, except locomotive and fire department; Furnacemen, smeltermen, and pourers; Heaters, metal; Laundry operatives and laundresses, except private family; Linemen and servicemen, telegraph, telephone, and power; Meat cutters, except slaughter and packing house; Mine operatives and laborers; Motormen, street, subway, and elevated railway; Painters, except construction and maintenance; Sailors and deck hands, except U. S. Navy; Switchmen, railroad; Welders and flamecutters; Asbestos and insulation workers; Blasters and powdermen; Boatmen, canalmen, and lock keepers; Chainmen, rodmen, and axmen, surveying; Dyers; Fruit and vegetable graders and packers, except in cannery; Milliners (not in factory); Motion picture projectionists; Motormen (vehicle), mine, factory, logging camp, etc.; Oilers, machinery; Photo-

graphic process workers; Power station operators; Operatives and kindred workers (n.e.c.).

Domestic Service Workers: Housekeepers, private family; Laundresses, private family; Servants, private family.

Protective Service Workers: Firemen, fire department; Guards, watchmen, and doorkeepers; Policemen and detectives; Soldiers, sailors, marines, and coast guards; Marshals and constables; Sheriffs and bailiffs; Watchmen (crossing) and bridge tenders.

Service Workers, except Domestic and Protective: Barbers, beauticians, and manicurists; Bartenders; Boarding house and lodginghouse keepers; Charwomen and cleaners; Cooks, except private family; Elevator operators; Housekeepers, stewards, and hostesses, except private family; Janitors and sextons; Porters; Practical nurses and midwives; Servants, except private family; Waiters and waitresses, except private family; Attendants, hospital and other institution; Attendants, professional and personal service (n.e.c.); Attendants, recreation and amusement; Bootblacks; Ushers, amusement place or assembly.

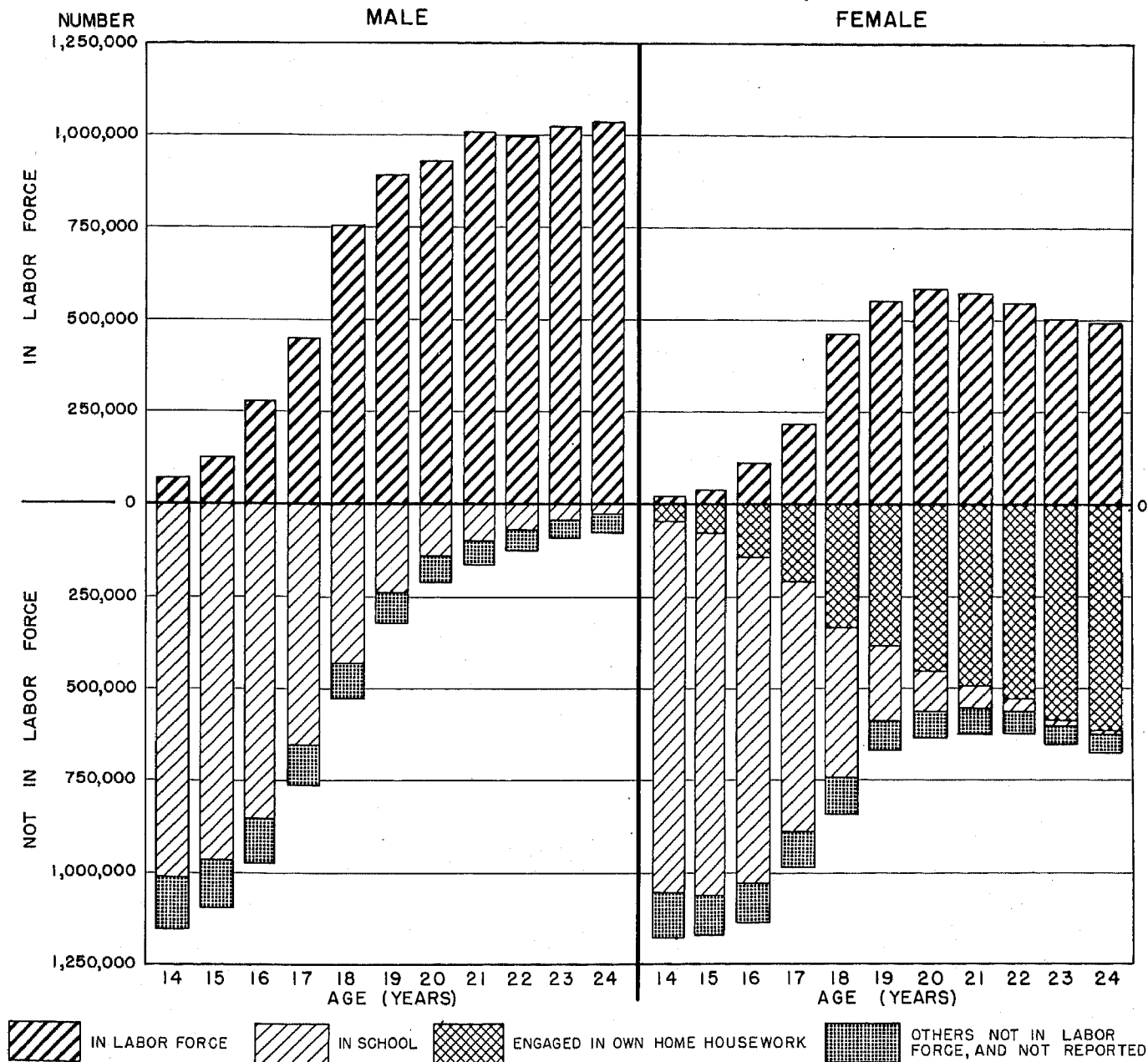
Farm Laborers and Farm Foremen: Farm laborers (wage workers); Farm foremen; Farm laborers (unpaid family workers).

Laborers, except Farm: Fishermen and oystermen; Garage laborers and car washers and greasers; Gardeners (except farm) and groundskeepers; Longshoremen and stevedores; Lumbermen, raftsmen, and woodchoppers; Teamsters; Laborers (n.e.c.).

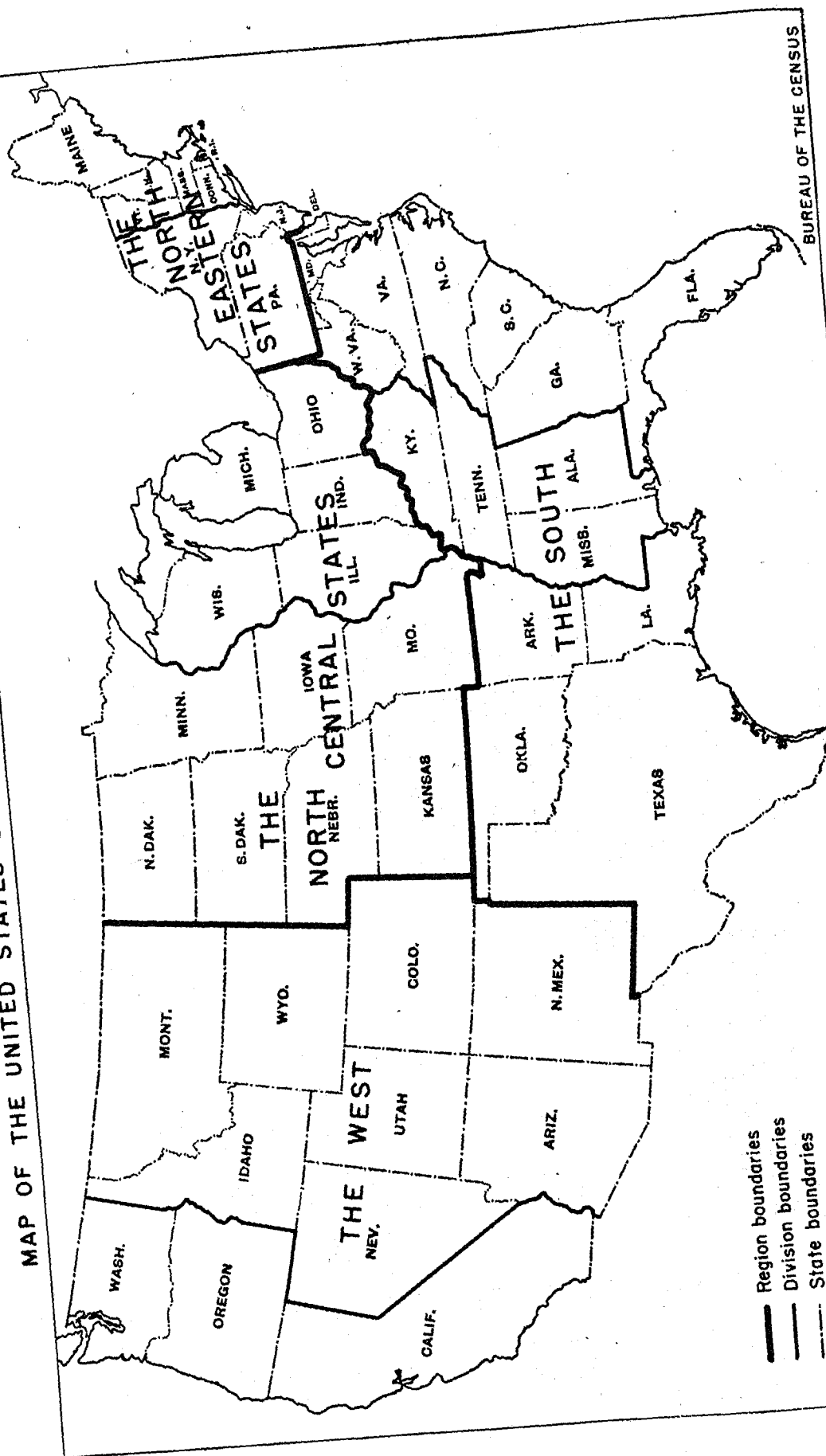
INTRODUCTION

LABOR FORCE STATUS OF MALES AND FEMALES 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD,
BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

(STATISTICS BASED ON A 5-PERCENT SAMPLE)



MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



— Region boundaries
 — Division boundaries
 - - - State boundaries

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE