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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JESSE H. JONES, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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

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

PHILIP M. HAUSER, Assistant Director



SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION and HOUSING  
FAMILIES

General Characteristics, Tenure and Rent,  
Income and Rent, and Characteristics  
of Rural-farm Families

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Prepared under the supervision of

Dr. LEON E. TRUESDELL

Chief Statistician for Population

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1943

## POPULATION AND HOUSING—FAMILIES

This volume consists of four reports, arranged as follows:

General Characteristics

Tenure and Rent

Income and Rent

Characteristics of Rural-farm Families

(See also volume entitled "Population—Families" for  
additional reports in this field)

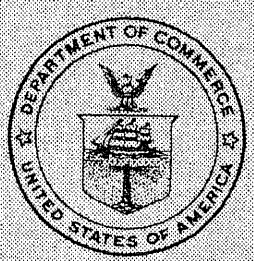
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S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



**6TH CENSUS**  
**THE UNITED STATES**  
**1940**



# POPULATION AND HOUSING

**FAMILIES**

**General Characteristics**

States, Cities of 100,000 or More, and Metropolitan  
Districts of 200,000 or More

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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 on the tabulation of samples of the census returns and presents statistics on the economic and other characteristics of families for regions, States, cities of 100,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more. This report contains the only statistics from the 1940 Census on most of the family characteristics for States, cities of less than 1,000,000, and metropolitan districts of less than 500,000. 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 Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., William H. Mautz, Howard G. Brunsman, and Dr. Paul C. Glick. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

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# FAMILIES

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

### INTRODUCTION

#### GENERAL

This report presents statistics for the United States by States on a number of the characteristics of families and of their heads based on returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken as of April 1, 1940.<sup>1</sup> Families are classified according to tenure, size, number of children under 10, under 18, and under 21 years old, labor force status of children 14 to 17 years old, number of lodgers and subfamilies, number of persons in the labor force, number of employed workers, family employment status, class-of-worker composition, and family wage or salary income and receipt of other income. Heads of families are shown by race, nativity, parentage, citizenship, sex, marital status, age, highest grade of school completed, migration status and 1935 residence, employment status, and major occupation group. Statistics are presented for the United States, by regions and States; for the urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm parts of the United States, regions, and States; for cities of 100,000 or more; and for metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more.

Statistics for male heads of military age by number of dependents may be derived from the tables showing families classified by sex, marital status, and age of head, and number of children under 18 years old. These statistics are directly applicable to problems of deferment of men from military service, and allotments to dependents of men in the armed forces.

Related reports on families.—This is one of a series of reports presenting statistics for families, based on tabulations of samples of the returns of the 1940 Censuses of Population and Housing. The specific titles of other reports in this series, and a brief summary of the subjects covered, are given below.<sup>2</sup>

Types of Families: Characteristics of families by family type, that is, by sex and marital status of head, and number of children, are presented in this report by age of head and other characteristics of the head and of the family. Statistics are shown for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Employment Status: Data for families by number and employment status of persons in the labor force, by characteristics of the family and of the family head, are presented in this report for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939, for families classified by characteristics of the family and of the head, are shown in this report for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Size of Family and Age of Head: Characteristics of families and of family heads, by type and size of family and age of head, are presented in this report for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Tenure and Rent: Data for urban and rural-nonfarm families classified by tenure and rent and cross-classified by family characteristics and characteristics of the head, are presented in this report for regions, cities of 1,000,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 500,000 or more.

Income and Rent: Data on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 are shown in this report for

urban and rural-nonfarm families classified by tenure and rent, and cross-classified by housing characteristics, family characteristics, and characteristics of the head. Statistics are presented for regions, and metropolitan districts of 1,000,000 or more.

Characteristics of Rural-farm Families: Rural-farm families are classified in this report by tenure, occupation of the head, and in some cases by value or rent, and cross-classified by selected housing characteristics, family characteristics, and characteristics of the head. Statistics are presented for regions and geographic divisions.

Related reports on population and housing.—The United States summaries of the second, third, and fourth series of Population bulletins show for individuals many of the characteristics given in the present report for families and family heads. The second series of Population bulletins, entitled "Characteristics of the Population," present data on general population characteristics and condensed labor force statistics for States, counties, all urban places, and metropolitan districts. The third series of Population bulletins, entitled "The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income," gives more detailed data on the labor force for States and for cities of 100,000 or more. The fourth series of Population bulletins, entitled "Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship," deals with general population characteristics for States and cities of 50,000 or more, and presents data on marital status and relationship to head of household as well as other data less closely related to family characteristics. Other publications present characteristics of the migrant population for States and large cities.

Sample data on the fertility of women 15 to 74 years old are presented in other reports, for regions, divisions, States, and cities of 250,000 or more. In these publications, women are classified by number of children ever born, number of children under 5 and 5 to 9 years old, age, duration of marriage, and other characteristics.

The first series of Housing bulletins, entitled "Data for Small Areas," and the second series of Housing bulletins, entitled "General Characteristics," present statistics on occupied dwelling units (the living quarters of families) for States, for counties, for incorporated places of 1,000 or more, for metropolitan districts, and, in the first series, for minor civil divisions.

Data from previous censuses.—The reports for each decennial census beginning with 1850 have included data on the number of families and the number of dwellings. Beginning with the Census of 1890, family statistics have been available on farm residence, tenure, and the number of Negro families. Data are also available for 1890, 1900, 1920, and 1930 on families by race and nativity of head. A classification of households by size was made in 1890 and 1900, but since lodgers and other unrelated members were included, as well as institutional groups, the figures are not comparable with the 1930 and 1940 data on family size. In addition, certain other family characteristics, such as population per family, were published in the reports for various censuses.

In recognition of the growing need for statistics on family characteristics, the Bureau of the Census published a separate detailed report on families in 1930. This report included data on families by race and nativity of head and tenure, cross-classified by size of family, value or rent, number of children under 10 and under 21 years old, number of gainful workers, number of lodgers, and sex of head, with male heads by age. Family statistics were presented for each State by counties, and for all incorporated places of 2,500 or more.

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

<sup>2</sup> At the time this report goes to press (early in 1943) these reports are in various stages of completion, and the titles and contents may be somewhat altered before publication.

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Sample data on the fertility of women 15 to 74 years old are presented in other reports, for regions, divisions, States, and cities of 250,000 or more. In these publications, women are classified by number of children ever born, number of children under 5 and 5 to 9 years old, age, duration of marriage, and other characteristics.

The first series of Housing bulletins, entitled "Data for Small Areas," and the second series of Housing bulletins, entitled "General Characteristics," present statistics on occupied dwelling units (the living quarters of families) for States, for counties, for incorporated places of 1,000 or more, for metropolitan districts, and, in the first series, for minor civil divisions.

Data from previous censuses.—The reports for each decennial census beginning with 1850 have included data on the number of families and the number of dwellings. Beginning with the Census of 1890, family statistics have been available on farm residence, tenure, and the number of Negro families. Data are also available for 1890, 1900, 1920, and 1930 on families by race and nativity of head. A classification of households by size was made in 1890 and 1900, but since lodgers and other unrelated members were included, as well as institutional groups, the figures are not comparable with the 1930 and 1940 data on family size. In addition, certain other family characteristics, such as population per family, were published in the reports for various censuses.

In recognition of the growing need for statistics on family characteristics, the Bureau of the Census published a separate detailed report on families in 1930. This report included data on families by race and nativity of head and tenure, cross-classified by size of family, value or rent, number of children under 10 and under 21 years old, number of gainful workers, number of lodgers, and sex of head, with male heads by age. Family statistics were presented for each State by counties, and for all incorporated places of 2,500 or more.

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

<sup>2</sup> At the time this report goes to press (early in 1943) these reports are in various stages of completion, and the titles and contents may be somewhat altered before publication.

Unpublished 1930 tabulations include data on types of families, families having a gainfully employed home-maker, and selected families by number of children cross-classified by age of wife, duration of marriage, and other characteristics.

**Sources of family statistics.**—The 1940 family statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of two samples of families, identified as Sample D and Sample F. All of the family characteristics based on tabulations of Sample D and the majority of those based on tabulations of Sample F were obtained from the entries on the Population census schedule, where the individual members of a family were enumerated on consecutive lines. The tables in this report based on tabulations of Sample F include two items that were obtained from the Housing schedule, namely, farm residence for rural families and tenure.

**Nature of the sample data.**—Each of the two samples, Sample D and Sample F, was designed so that in certain portions of the areas shown, a 2½-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 40), and elsewhere a 5-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 20). Sample D differs slightly from Sample F by reason of differences in procedures used in deriving the data. Exact agreement is not to be expected between these tabulations and the corresponding tabulations of a complete count, but the sample data nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various characteristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables, comparisons thus far made indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 25,000 will differ from those given by the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 10,000 and 25,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 2,500 and 10,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,500 but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent. (See Appendix, "Comparison of sample and complete counts".)

**Arrangement of tables.**—The tables in the present report are arranged in four groups according to area. Tables 1 to 20 present statistics for the United States as a whole and for 4 regions. Data for States are shown in tables 21 to 46. In tables 47 to 71 appear statistics for cities of 100,000 or more, and in tables 72 to 81, for the 60 metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more. For several subjects, less detailed statistics are presented for the smaller areas than for the larger areas. Within each of the four types of areas, the tables based on tabulations of Sample D precede those based on tabulations of Sample F.

**Availability of unpublished data.**—The statistics in this report presented for the United States and regions represent nearly all of the detail tabulated for these areas in the counts upon which the report is based. With the exception of the figures shown in tables 19 and 20, similar statistics have been tabulated for cities of 100,000 or more, for metropolitan districts (for those subjects presented by metropolitan districts), and for the urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm remainder of each State. For all areas in the South and in the State of Missouri, and for cities in the North and West with 50,000 or more nonwhite inhabitants, or with 10 percent or more nonwhite, the tabulations upon which all tables except tables 19 and 20 are based have been made separately for white and nonwhite families. (The data on lodging houses and institutions in table 19 and the data on lodging houses in table 20 are based on a special tabulation that was made only for regions, urban and rural.) Because of space limitations, the data on certain subjects for States, cities, and metropolitan districts are published in condensed form but can be made available in full detail for the cost of preparing and reproducing them. Request for these data, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C., will receive a prompt reply, including an estimate of the cost of preparing the figures.

#### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

**Urban and rural areas.**—Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. In addition, certain densely populated townships or other civil divisions, not incorporated as municipalities, have been classified as urban under special rules. 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, which comprises the remaining rural population. (For further details for each State, see Population, Volume I, entitled "Number of Inhabitants" and comprising the first series of Population bulletins for States.)

**Metropolitan districts.**—A metropolitan district has been set up for use in the 1940 Censuses of Population and Housing in connection with each city of 50,000 or more, two or more such cities sometimes being in one district. In the present report, family statistics are shown in several of the tables for metropolitan districts with 200,000 or more inhabitants. The general plan is to include in the district, in addition to the central city or cities, all adjacent and contiguous minor civil divisions or incorporated places having a population of 150 or more per square mile. In some metropolitan districts a few less densely populated contiguous divisions are included on the basis of special qualifications. Only a portion of a minor civil division is included if the minor civil division has a large area and the principal concentration of population is in a small section near the central city with the more remote sections being sparsely settled. In such cases, the unit considered is not the minor civil division but component enumeration districts. A metropolitan district is thus not a political unit but rather an area including all the thickly settled territory in and around a city or group of cities. It tends to be a more or less integrated area with common economic, social, and, often, administrative interests.

**Family, private household, and occupied dwelling unit.**—The term "family," as defined in the 1940, 1930, and 1900 censuses, is limited to private families and excludes the small number (about 80,000) of institutions and other quasi households which were counted as families in the other censuses since 1850 (see sections on "Data from previous censuses" and "Quasi household"). A private family comprises a family head and all other persons in the home who are related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption, and who live together and share common housekeeping arrangements. A person living alone is counted as a one-person private family. A family head sharing his living accommodations with one or more unrelated persons, or providing rooms for the use of lodgers, servants, or hired hands, is also counted as a one-person private family. A group of related persons residing permanently or for an indefinite period in an apartment hotel is counted as a private family.

The term "private household" is used in the 1940 Population Census to include the related family members (who constitute the private family) and the lodgers, servants, or hired hands, if any, who regularly live in the home. Thus, the number of private households is the same as the number of private families, but the total number of persons in private households includes some individuals who are not members of private families. A family group reporting more than 10 lodgers is classified as a quasi household (specifically, as a lodging house) rather than as a private family or private household. Statistics on the number of private households for States and cities of 50,000 or more are shown in the tables on relationship to head of household in the fourth series of Population bulletins.

The term "occupied dwelling unit," as used in the 1940 Housing Census, is defined as the living quarters occupied by one household. The number of occupied dwelling units obtained from the Housing census is approximately the same as the number of private families obtained from the Population census. The living quarters of about 115,000 families that were enumerated at some place other than their usual place of residence were not classified as occupied, but the related members of the household were counted as a private family. The small number (about 20,000) of lodging places with more than 10 lodgers were counted as occupied units but the heads of such lodging houses were not counted as heads of private families. (The living quarters of no other classes of quasi households were included as occupied dwelling units.) These differences between the number of private families and the number of occupied units are numerically minor and partly offsetting.

**Quasi household.**—A quasi household is a group of persons not living in private families, such as those living in a boarding or lodging house, an institution, a school, a labor camp, a military or naval post, or the transient population of a hotel, or the crew of a vessel.

Heads of quasi households are usually managers or officers of institutions, hotels, lodging houses, or similar establishments. In a few instances where no logical head was returned for the quasi household the first member of the household was arbitrarily designated as the head. Thus, the number of heads of quasi households also represents the number of quasi households. This number is comparable with the number of quasi-family groups in 1930.

In this report, statistics are presented on quasi households for the United States, urban and rural, and for regions. Since lodging houses are the only quasi households with living quarters classified as occupied dwelling units, more detailed statistics are presented for them. Lodging houses are shown by

sex of head, tenure and value or rent, and number of rooms. These statistics furnish a basis for comparing the proportion of families and lodging houses with female heads, and for comparing the proportion of occupied dwelling units and lodging houses with high values or rents and large number of rooms.

**Head of family.**—One person in each family was designated in the 1940 census as the family head, that is, the person regarded as the head by the members of the family. The number of heads of families is, therefore, equal to the number of families. The head of a private family is usually a married man and the chief breadwinner in the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household.

**Race of head.**—Three major racial groups of family heads are distinguished in certain tables: White, Negro, and "Other races." Data for three of the "Other races," the Indian, Chinese, and Japanese, are shown separately for the United States and for regions in table 7. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were returned as white in 1940.

For southern States and for the 14 cities with 20,000 or more nonwhite families, statistics are presented separately for nonwhite heads of families, that is, for the total of Negro, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and other nonwhite family heads. The great majority of the nonwhite population consists of Negroes, except in the Pacific States, where there are many Chinese and Japanese, and in Oklahoma and certain Mountain States, where many of the nonwhites are Indians.

**Nativity and parentage.**—In certain tables, white families are classified according to the nativity and parentage of the head. White heads of families are divided into two fundamental nativity groups, native and foreign born. In this classification by nativity, a family head born in the United States or in any of its territories or possessions is counted as native. In the classification by parentage, which is applied only to the native white population, there are three primary groups as follows: (1) Native parentage (both parents born in the United States or in the outlying possessions); (2) foreign parentage (both parents foreign born); and (3) mixed parentage (one parent native and the other foreign born).

Table I shows the number of families in continental United States in 1940, 1930, 1920, 1900, and 1890, by race and

Table I. FAMILIES BY RACE AND NATIVITY OF HEAD, WITH TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE AND NATIVITY, AND POPULATION PER FAMILY BY RACE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940, 1930, 1920, 1900, and 1890

[1940 family statistics based on Sample F. Family statistics for 1940, 1930, and 1900 represent private families only; those for 1920 and 1890 include the small number of institutions and other quasi households which were counted as families in those years. Figures for white families and white population in 1930 revised to include Mexicans classified with "Other races" in the 1930 reports]

SUBJECT	1940	1930	1920	1900	1890
<b>FAMILIES</b>					
All families.....	35,088,840	29,904,663	24,351,676	15,963,965	12,690,152
White.....	31,794,800	26,862,994	21,825,654	14,063,791	11,253,169
Native.....	26,389,800	21,043,417	16,407,983	10,206,500	8,721,434
Foreign born.....	5,405,100	5,819,577	5,417,671	3,857,291	2,531,735
Negro.....	3,164,200	2,803,756	2,430,828	1,833,759	1,410,769
Other races.....	129,740	117,913	95,194	66,415	24,214
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	90.6	90.2	89.6	88.1	88.7
Native.....	75.2	70.4	67.4	63.9	63.2
Foreign born.....	15.4	19.9	22.2	24.2	25.5
Negro.....	9.0	9.4	10.0	11.5	11.1
Other races.....	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
<b>POPULATION</b>					
Total.....	131,669,275	122,775,046	105,710,620	75,994,575	62,622,250
White.....	118,214,870	110,286,740	94,820,915	66,809,196	54,983,890
Native.....	106,795,732	96,303,335	81,108,161	56,595,379	45,862,023
Foreign born.....	11,419,138	13,983,405	13,712,754	10,213,817	9,121,867
Negro.....	12,865,518	11,891,143	10,463,131	8,833,994	7,470,040
Other races.....	588,887	597,153	426,574	351,385	168,320
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	89.8	89.8	89.7	87.9	87.8
Native.....	81.1	78.4	76.7	74.5	73.2
Foreign born.....	8.7	11.4	13.0	13.4	14.6
Negro.....	9.8	9.7	9.9	11.6	11.9
Other races.....	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3
<b>POPULATION PER FAMILY</b>					
Total.....	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.8	4.9
White.....	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.8	4.9
Native.....	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.8	5.3
Negro.....	4.5	5.1	4.5	5.3	7.0

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of 325,464 persons specially enumerated in Indian territory and on Indian reservations, for whom family data are not available.

nativity of the head in comparison with the population by race and nativity and the population per family by race in the same years. The percentage of family heads classified as foreign-born white has consistently been higher than the percentage of the total population classified as foreign-born white. The difference arises because most of the children of foreign-born white heads are born in this country and are, therefore, native.

**Citizenship.**—The foreign-born white heads of families are classified as naturalized or alien. The aliens are subdivided into those having first papers—that is, having made formal declaration of intention to become citizens of the United States—and those not having first papers. Most of the heads of families for whom no report on citizenship was obtained were probably aliens.

**Sex and marital status of head.**—Several family characteristics are shown by sex of head, because of the importance of this classification for the interpretation of the statistics. The classification of families by sex and marital status of head and number of children is designated "type of family."

The statistics on marital status of the family head refer to the marital status at the time the census was taken. Heads of families classified as "married" comprise both those who have been married only once, and those who remarried after having been divorced or widowed. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as married, widowed, or single, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced heads of families who have not remarried. The small number of persons whose marital status was not reported and could not be determined from the evidence given on the schedules were classified as single.

A male head was classified as "married, wife present," if his wife was reported as a member of the household in which he was enumerated. Females were not classified as heads of families if their husbands were living in the household at the time the census was taken. A family with a male head, married, wife present is regarded as a "normal family." Normal families constituted 75.8 percent of all families in 1940 and 79.2 percent in 1930.

The group "married, husband absent" and the group "married, wife absent" consist of married heads whose husbands or wives were not living in the same household at the time of the census. These two groups include married heads whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose husbands or wives are abroad, husbands or wives of persons enumerated as inmates of institutions, and other married heads whose usual place of residence is not the same as that of their husbands or wives, including soldiers, sailors, men in labor camps, etc., and their wives.

**Age of head.**—The age classification is based on the age of the family head at his last birthday before April 1, 1940, that is, the age of the head in completed years. In the 1940 census tabulations, when the age of a person was not reported it was estimated on the basis of other information on the Population schedules, such as marital status, school attendance, employment status, age of other members in the family, etc.

**Highest grade of school completed.**—In 1940 the census, for the first time, included a question on the formal educational attainment of each person. The question on the schedule referred to the last full grade that the person had completed in the regular school system—public, private, or parochial school, college, or university. Statistics on the highest grade of school completed are shown in this report for heads of families, the great majority of whom have completed their formal education.

**Migration status and 1935 residence of head.**—The 1940 census included a series of questions designed to provide data on the movement of the population during the five-year period between April 1, 1935, and April 1, 1940. For this purpose, information was obtained on the place of residence in 1935 of all persons five years old and over. In the present report, families are classified according to the migration status and 1935 residence of the head of the family, the two basic groups being designated as migrants and nonmigrants.

Migrants are those persons who lived in different counties (or quasi counties) in 1940 and 1935. In this classification, a city of 100,000 or more inhabitants is treated as a quasi county, and the remainder of its county as another. Thus, migrants comprise: (a) those living in different counties in 1940 and 1935; (b) those living in a city of 100,000 or more in 1940 but living elsewhere in the same county in 1935; and (c) those living in a city of 100,000 or more in 1935<sup>1</sup> but living

<sup>1</sup> All classifications of place of residence in 1935, either as urban or rural, or by city size, are based on the 1930 census.

## FAMILIES, 1940

elsewhere in the same county in 1940. In this report, immigrants are included with the migrants. Immigrants are those who were living in foreign countries or in the outlying territories or possessions of the United States in 1935.<sup>1</sup> The classification of migrants by place of residence in 1935 shows separately urban areas by four size groups, rural-nonfarm areas, and rural-farm areas.

Nonmigrants are those persons who lived in the same county (or quasi county) in 1940 as in 1935. Among the nonmigrants, a distinction is made between those living in the same house in 1940 as in 1935 and those living in a different house in 1940 than in 1935.

The statistics on this subject do not indicate the particular areas in which the migrants lived in 1935. Furthermore, these statistics do not indicate all the movements made by the family heads between 1935 and 1940, since many families changed

their residence several times during that period. In some cases, of course, the family head returned to the city county where he had lived in 1935, so that the head was classified as a nonmigrant, even though he had moved at least twice in the five-year period 1935 to 1940.

**Tenure.**—Families are classified by tenure into two groups: Owner and tenant. A family is classified as an owner family if the home was owned either wholly or in part by the head of the family or by some related member of his family living in the home. All other families are classified as tenant families whether or not cash rent was actually paid for the living quarters. Families residing in rent-free quarters or in living accommodations which were received in payment for services performed are thus included with the tenant families.

Comparative data for the period 1890 to 1940 on families by color of head and tenure are shown in table II for farm and nonfarm areas.

Table II. FAMILIES BY URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE, AND RACE OF HEAD, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1890 TO 1940

[1940 statistics based on Sample F. Statistics for 1940, 1930, and 1900 represent private families only; those for 1920, 1910, and 1890 include the small number of institutions and other quasi households which were counted as families in those years. For 1890 to 1920, a small proportion of the families in the category "Rural-farm" were urban-farm families. Figures for white families in 1930 revised to include Mexicans classified with "Other races" in 1930 reports.]

AREA, RACE OF HEAD, AND TENURE	1940		1930		1920		1910		1900		1890	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>TENURE</b>												
All families.....	35,088,840	-	29,904,563	-	24,351,676	-	20,255,555	-	15,963,965	-	12,690,152	-
Reporting tenure.....	35,088,840	100.0	29,321,891	100.0	23,810,558	100.0	19,781,606	100.0	15,428,987	100.0	12,690,152	100.0
Owner.....	15,248,540	43.5	14,002,074	47.8	10,866,960	45.6	9,063,711	45.9	7,205,212	46.7	6,086,417	48.4
Tenant.....	19,840,300	56.5	15,919,817	52.2	12,943,596	54.4	10,697,895	54.1	8,223,775	53.3	6,603,735	51.6
<b>AREA BY TENURE</b>												
Urban and rural-nonfarm.....	27,946,320	-	23,300,026	-	17,600,472	-	14,131,945	-	10,274,127	-	7,922,973	-
Reporting tenure.....	27,946,320	100.0	22,917,072	100.0	17,223,394	100.0	13,672,044	100.0	9,779,979	100.0	7,922,973	100.0
Owner.....	11,437,180	40.9	10,549,972	46.0	7,041,223	40.9	5,245,380	38.4	3,566,809	36.5	2,923,671	37.0
Tenant.....	16,509,140	59.1	12,367,100	54.0	10,182,171	59.1	8,426,664	61.6	6,212,170	63.5	4,999,302	63.0
Rural-farm.....	7,142,520	-	6,604,637	-	6,751,204	-	6,123,610	-	5,689,838	-	4,767,179	-
Reporting tenure.....	7,142,520	100.0	6,404,819	100.0	6,581,164	100.0	6,109,562	100.0	5,649,008	100.0	4,767,179	100.0
Owner.....	3,811,360	53.4	3,452,102	53.9	3,825,677	58.1	3,838,331	62.8	3,638,403	64.4	3,142,746	66.1
Tenant.....	3,331,160	46.6	2,952,717	46.1	2,755,487	41.9	2,271,231	37.2	2,010,605	35.6	1,624,433	33.9
<b>RACE OF HEAD BY TENURE</b>												
White.....	21,794,900	-	26,982,994	-	21,825,654	-	(1)	-	14,063,791	-	11,255,169	-
Reporting tenure.....	21,794,900	100.0	26,432,256	100.0	21,379,163	100.0	(1)	-	13,659,106	100.0	11,255,169	100.0
Owner.....	14,474,420	45.5	13,288,429	50.2	10,286,267	48.1	(1)	-	6,788,069	49.7	5,793,660	51.4
Tenant.....	17,320,480	54.5	13,203,827	49.8	11,092,896	51.9	(1)	-	6,871,037	50.3	5,461,509	48.6
Negro.....	3,164,200	-	2,803,756	-	2,430,828	-	2,173,012	-	1,833,759	-	1,410,769	-
Reporting tenure.....	3,164,200	100.0	2,719,862	100.0	2,342,348	100.0	2,092,418	100.0	1,708,726	100.0	1,410,769	100.0
Owner.....	718,560	22.7	669,645	24.6	542,654	23.2	488,699	23.4	373,450	21.9	264,288	18.7
Tenant.....	2,445,640	77.3	2,050,217	75.4	1,799,694	76.8	1,603,719	76.6	1,335,276	78.1	1,146,481	81.3
Other races.....	129,740	-	117,813	-	95,194	-	(1)	-	66,415	-	24,214	-
Reporting tenure.....	129,740	100.0	109,773	100.0	89,047	100.0	(1)	-	61,155	100.0	24,214	100.0
Owner.....	55,560	42.8	44,000	40.1	38,039	42.7	(1)	-	43,693	71.4	8,469	34.9
Tenant.....	74,180	57.2	65,773	59.9	51,008	57.3	(1)	-	17,462	28.6	15,745	65.1

<sup>1</sup> Statistics for 1910 not available.

Children under 10, under 18, and under 21 years old.—The tabulation of children under 10 years old includes all children within this age class who are related to the head of the family either by blood or by adoption. Stepchildren are included, but not foster children nor wards. Grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and other related children not sons nor daughters of the head are included, but the number is relatively small. The count of children under 18 and of children under 21 excludes married children living with the family.

The classification of families by number of children under 10 years old is useful as a measure of fertility and also as an indication of the number of women who are unable to accept jobs because of responsibility for the care of young children. Statistics on families by number of children under 18 years old are significant principally because the great majority of such children are still financially dependent upon their parents. The data on families by number of children under 21 years old indicate the number of families in which there are minor children.

**Size of family.**—In the classification of families according to size, only the head of the family and persons related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption are counted. Lodgers, resident servants, guests, and foster children or wards are omitted from the number of persons in the family but are included in the number of persons in the household as shown in the second series of Housing bulletins. Most of the one-person families shown in the classification represent persons living alone. A number of so-called partnership families, however,

<sup>1</sup> In the reports on internal migration, immigrants are shown separately from migrants.

are also included in this group; in such families one person has been classified as the head, and the others have been counted as lodgers.

The median size of family in 1940 and 1930 is presented in table III for the United States by regions, urban and rural (with color for the South). In connection with the median size of family the general definition of the median—that item or value which stands at the midpoint of a series arranged according to size or value must be qualified somewhat since this figure is presented with a decimal which can hardly be taken literally. For practical purposes, however, one need not be concerned with the theoretical interpretation of the median, but may simply accept it as a convenient summary figure representing the size of family in the various areas and groups concerned.

**Lodgers and subfamilies.**—In the classification of families according to number of lodgers, certain persons have been counted as lodgers besides those directly returned as lodgers or roomers. The more important of these are unrelated persons sharing the living quarters of the family head; employees of the head, other than servants, such as hired hands living with the farm family; foster children and wards; and guests with other usual place of residence. The distinction between private family with lodgers or boarders and a lodging house hotel cannot be sharply defined but, as stated above, households with more than 10 lodgers are excluded from the classification of private families. This line of division conforms with that used in the 1930 family tabulations. In 1940, 8.1 percent of the families had one or more lodgers, as compared with 10 percent in 1930.



# INTRODUCTION

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Table III. MEDIAN SIZE OF FAMILY BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES, BY REGIONS, URBAN AND RURAL (WITH COLOR FOR THE SOUTH): 1940 AND 1930

[1940 statistics based on Sample F. Figures for nonwhite families in 1930 revised to exclude Mexicans classified with "Other races" in the 1930 reports]

REGION AND TENURE	ALL FAMILIES		URBAN		RURAL-NONFARM		RURAL-FARM	
	1940	1930	1940	1930	1940	1930	1940	1930
United States.....	3.15	3.40	3.00	3.25	3.12	3.28	3.71	4.02
Owner.....	3.21	3.49	3.17	3.48	3.01	3.14	3.51	3.89
Tenant.....	3.10	3.35	2.90	3.12	3.23	3.47	3.92	4.21
The Northeastern States.....	3.19	3.42	3.17	3.43	3.18	3.32	3.44	3.55
Owner.....	3.31	3.60	3.38	3.73	3.08	3.21	3.37	3.56
Tenant.....	3.13	3.31	3.08	3.27	3.30	3.52	3.66	4.03
The North Central States.....	3.08	3.33	2.99	3.24	2.93	3.07	3.49	3.38
Owner.....	3.11	3.38	3.15	3.44	2.79	2.89	3.32	3.71
Tenant.....	3.05	3.29	2.88	3.09	3.13	3.41	3.75	4.06
The South - Total.....	3.36	3.68	2.98	3.25	3.32	3.54	3.97	4.28
Owner.....	3.39	3.75	3.14	3.46	3.24	3.45	3.82	4.25
Tenant.....	3.35	3.66	2.99	3.14	3.39	3.64	4.10	4.34
The South - White.....	3.41	3.79	3.05	3.40	3.38	3.69	3.98	4.35
Owner.....	3.41	-	3.18	-	3.26	-	3.80	-
Tenant.....	3.41	-	2.99	-	3.48	-	4.16	-
The South - Nonwhite.....	3.17	3.28	2.65	2.71	2.99	2.99	3.94	4.07
Owner.....	3.24	-	2.85	-	3.09	-	4.00	-
Tenant.....	3.14	-	2.58	-	2.94	-	3.93	-
The West.....	2.72	2.96	2.55	2.82	2.86	3.01	3.29	3.55
Owner.....	2.92	3.15	2.84	3.07	2.90	3.07	3.23	3.48
Tenant.....	2.51	2.80	2.37	2.52	2.81	3.00	3.41	3.78

The term "subfamily," as used in the 1940 census, is defined as a married couple not including the head of the family, with or without children. Married couples who are lodgers are counted as subfamilies, but not those who are resident servants. Subfamilies related to the head of the family have been subdivided into three groups according to their relationship to the head. The first group of subfamilies is designated "parents of head" and includes the parents of the head or of his wife. The second group of subfamilies is designated "children of head" and includes subfamilies in which the husband or the wife is a child, an adopted child, or a stepchild of the head. The third group of subfamilies is designated "other related persons" and includes all related subfamilies in which the relationship to the head of the family does not belong in either of the two preceding groups.

The extent of "doubling up" among families, that is, the extent to which subfamilies are found in an area, is not always a valid indication of the amount of housing demand in the area. Factors such as choice or convenience rather than economic necessity often account for the presence of a subfamily.

Persons in the labor force.—In some of the tables in this report, families are classified according to the number of related persons 14 years old and over who were in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. The labor force consists of persons 14 years old and over who were employed for pay or profit or engaged in unpaid family work, on public emergency work, or seeking work during the census week. (For definitions of these employment status categories, see "Family Employment Status," below.) Persons not in the labor force comprise all other persons 14 years old and over, including those reported as engaged in own home housework, those in school, those unable to work, others not at work and not having a job, not on public emergency work, and not seeking work; and persons for whom employment status was not reported.

The classification of families by number of persons in the labor force provides an indication of the number of workers normally contributing to the support of the family. In many cases, however, the members of the family are financially more or less independent of one another, so that the family does not function as a single economic unit. It should also be borne in mind that many persons not in the labor force derive income from sources such as pensions, investments, and public assistance payments, which often provide a large part, and sometimes all, of the family's means of support. Most of the families with no members in the labor force presumably derive their support from such sources; the heads of such families are in large part widows and elderly men who have retired from the labor force.

Comparison of 1940 data on persons in the labor force with 1930 data on gainful workers.—A comparison of 1940 data on families by number of persons in the labor force with 1930 data on families by number of gainful workers, is presented in table 13. The statistics for the two years are not directly compar-

able, partly because of differences in definition and partly because of differences in the types of questions upon which the data were based. The gainful worker statistics were obtained by means of questions regarding occupation rather than employment status. "Gainful workers" were persons 10 years old and over reported as having a gainful occupation, that is, an occupation in which they earned money or a money equivalent, or in which they assisted in the production of marketable goods, regardless of whether they were working or seeking work at the time of the census. The labor force is defined in the 1940 census on the basis of activity during the week of March 24 to 30, and includes only persons 14 years old and over who were at work, with a job, seeking work, or on public emergency work in that week. Certain classes of persons, such as retired workers, recently incapacitated workers, and seasonal workers neither working nor seeking work at the time of the census, were frequently included among gainful workers in 1930, but in general, such persons are not in the 1940 labor force. On the other hand, the 1940 labor force includes persons seeking work without previous work experience, that is, new workers. Most of the relatively few new workers at the time of the 1930 census were probably not counted as gainful workers.

These differences in definition may have had an appreciable effect upon the distribution of families by number of persons in the labor force, in comparison with the 1930 distribution by number of gainful workers. The apparent sharp increases in the proportions of families with no workers were probably caused partly by the more nearly uniform exclusion of retired and disabled persons from the labor force in 1940. On the other hand, these increases may have been due partly to the earlier retirement of elderly workers made possible by the Social Security system.

Family employment status.—The classification by family employment status is designed to show employment and unemployment among family members in the labor force. For this purpose, families with one person in the labor force are classified according to whether that person was employed during the census week; and those with two or more persons in the labor force are classified into three groups: (a) those in which all of the persons in the labor force were employed; (b) those with 1 or more employed persons, and 1 or more persons seeking work or on public emergency work; and (c) those in which none of the persons in the labor force was employed.

Data on family employment status have not been obtained in any previous census. They are presented here because of their value in the study of the impact of unemployment upon families as economic units, and in the analysis of public assistance needs resulting from unemployment.

The classification according to family employment status is based on the employment status classification for individuals in the labor force, in which the following categories are distinguished:

Employed.—The group classified as employed includes persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and persons not actually at work and not seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off not exceeding 4 weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. For convenience in terminology, the term "Employed" is used in this report to refer to the group designated "Employed (except on public emergency work)" in the publications presenting data for individuals.

On public emergency work.—This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Seeking work.—This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week.

In the interpretation of the data on family employment status, allowance must be made for the misclassification in the census returns of considerable numbers of public emergency workers. The number of persons reported in the census as on public emergency work in the United States was 2,529,606, whereas the number recorded on the pay rolls of the Federal emergency work agencies at about the time of the census was 2,906,196 excluding the NYA Student Work Program, and 3,377,978 including that program. The amount of misclassification varied

greatly from State to State. Among the factors that were responsible for the misclassification were confusion on the part of the enumerators and respondents regarding the classification of certain types of public emergency work, and reluctance on the part of some persons to report that they were on emergency work.

The most common type of misclassification was the reporting of emergency workers as "employed (except on public emergency work)." Persons on the NYA Student Work Program were very frequently returned as in school and not in the labor force. There is also evidence that a considerable number of emergency workers were classified as seeking work. As a result of these misclassifications, the data on family employment status presented in this report tend to understate the amount of complete and partial family unemployment at the time of the census.

**Number of employed workers.**—A classification of families according to the number of persons in the family who were employed during the census week, without regard to the total number in the labor force, is presented in some of the tables. These data provide an indication of the number of persons in the family who were earning income or were engaged in unpaid family work at the time of the census (excluding those working on public emergency projects).

**Employment status of head.**—Families are classified according to employment status of the family head, showing separately families in which the head was employed, on public emergency work, seeking work, or not in the labor force during the census week. Since the family head is usually the principal breadwinner, this classification is useful as an added indication of the economic impact of unemployment upon families. In some families, however, the head was a dependent, such as an aged father or mother supported by the children. Many of the heads who were not in the labor force were probably dependents.

**Major occupation group of head.**—For families with employed heads, the classification according to the current major occupation group of the family head gives an indication of the general economic and social status of the family, which tends to be closely associated with the occupation of the head.

Data on the occupational characteristics of all family heads in the labor force are not shown in this report because of the difficulty of interpreting an aggregate consisting of (1) current occupations (for employed heads); (2) occupations pursued on emergency work projects (for heads on public emergency work); and (3) latest occupations (for heads seeking work), which may represent work that ended a week before the census date or many years in the past.

In classifying occupation returns for 1940, the Bureau of the Census used a classification system with 451 occupation titles. For a list of the occupations included in each major group, see the United States Summary of the second series of Population bulletins.

**Labor force status of children 14 to 17 years old.**—A classification of families according to labor force status of children 14 to 17 years old is presented in several of the tables. These tables show the number of families with one or more children 14 to 17 years old related to the family head, and the number with one or more such children in the labor force during the census week. Because of the variations among States in the provisions of child labor laws, and because of the rapid changes in the labor force status of children over this four-year period, similar data are also presented for families by labor force status of children 14 and 15 years old, and by labor force status of children 16 and 17 years old.

The census data on labor force status of children 14 to 17 years old should be used with caution. Many students working part-time after school hours were probably reported as in school and not in the labor force; and it was doubtless difficult in many cases to determine whether a person attending school was also seeking work. A very large proportion of youths in the NYA Student Work Program were misclassified as "in school" instead of "on public emergency work." On the other hand, a considerable number of students in farming areas, who performed only incidental chores after school, may have been included erroneously in the labor force as unpaid family workers.

In the interpretation of the data for children, it should also be borne in mind that the employment of persons in this age class is highly seasonal. If the census had been taken during the summer months, a much larger number of families, especially in rural-farm areas, would have reported one or more children 14 to 17 years old in the labor force.

**Family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939.**—In 1940, inquiries concerning income were made for the first time in the history of the Population Census, in order to provide statistics regarding the adequacy of employment and the

economic well-being of the people. All persons 14 years old and over (except inmates of specified institutions) were asked to report (1) the amount of money wage or salary income received in 1939, and (2) whether \$50 or more of income other than money wages or salaries was received in 1939.

**Wage or salary income,** as defined for the purpose of the 1940 census, includes all money received by persons as compensation for work or services performed as employees, including commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, bonuses, etc., as well as receipts commonly referred to as wages or salaries. Enumerators were instructed not to consider as wage or salary income receipts from business profits, fees, travel reimbursements, sale of crops, unemployment compensation, etc., nor compensation in forms other than money, such as meals, lodging, clothing, fuel, etc.

Family wage or salary income was obtained by combining the wages and salaries reported by all related persons 14 years old and over in the family. Families were classified as having wage or salary income not reported when no report on wage or salary income was obtained for one or more members who were (1) in the labor force and classified as wage or salary workers, or (2) not in the labor force but who reported 1 or more weeks worked in 1939. When the question on wage or salary income was not answered for employers, own-account workers, unpaid family workers, new workers, or for persons not in the labor force other than those mentioned above, it was assumed that they had no wage or salary income. This was done because relatively few of these groups of persons worked for wages or salaries in 1939, and the enumerator left the column blank in most cases because he believed that the question on wage or salary income was inapplicable.

"Other income," as defined in the 1940 census, includes all income other than money wages or salaries, such as income from roomers or boarders, business profits, professional fees, receipts from the sale of farm products, rents, interest, dividends, unemployment compensation, direct relief, old-age assistance, pensions, annuities, royalties, regular contributions from persons other than members of the immediate family, and income received in kind from sources other than the immediate family. "Other income" does not include receipts in the form of lump-sum insurance settlements or compensation payments, occasional gifts of goods or money, inheritances, receipts or profits from the sale of properties (unless the person earned his living by buying and selling such properties), or reimbursements for travel expenses. The purpose of the inquiry concerning other income was to segregate those persons or families whose income from money wages or salaries represented all or nearly all of their income.

Families were classified as "with other income" if any related person 14 years old or over reported the receipt of \$50 or more of income from sources other than wages or salaries. Families were classified as "without other income" if all members 14 years old and over reported that they had received no other income. Persons engaged in home housework or in school who failed to report on the receipt or nonreceipt of other income were considered to have received no other income. Families were classified in the category "other income not reported" if one or more members, other than those engaged in home housework or in school, failed to report on the receipt or nonreceipt of other income, and no other member reported that he had received other income. Since relatively few persons engaged in home housework or in school receive any type of income, it is probable that many enumerators assumed that the question on the receipt of other income was inapplicable and accordingly made no entries for such persons.

In this report statistics for families with other income not reported are combined with those for families with other income, in spite of the fact that the majority of the families with no report on other income probably had no other income. This procedure was followed in order to keep the statistics on wage or salary income for families primarily dependent upon such income from being distorted by the inclusion of families which may have had \$50 or more of income from nonwage sources.

**Class-of-worker composition.**—An inquiry relating to class of worker was made for all experienced persons in the labor force in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. For employed workers and for persons on public emergency work, the classification by class of worker refers to their current work or job during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. For experienced workers seeking work, it refers to the last job of 1 month or more. The composition of each category is described below:

**Wage or salary workers.**—This class consists of persons who, in their current or last job, worked as employees for wages or salaries (in cash or kind). It includes not only factory operatives, laborers, clerks, etc., who worked for



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wages, but also persons working for tips or for room and board, salesmen and other employees working for commissions, and salaried business managers, corporation executives, and government officials.

Employers and own-account workers.—This group consists of persons who, in their current or latest work, operated their own business enterprises. It includes not only the owner-operators of large stores and manufacturing establishments, but also small merchants, independent craftsmen, farmers, professional men, peddlers, and other persons conducting enterprises of their own. It does not include managers paid to operate businesses owned by other persons or by corporations; such workers are classified as wage or salary workers.

Unpaid family workers.—This class is composed of persons who assisted without pay on farms or in stores or other enterprises operated by other members of their families. The great majority of unpaid family workers are farm laborers. On the basis of the class-of-worker designations for the family members, families were classified into the following three groups:

1. Families with all workers wage or salary workers.—This category includes those families in which all members in the labor force were classified as wage or salary workers.

2. Families with some workers wage or salary workers.—This class includes those families in which some members in the labor force were classified as wage or salary workers and some were classified as employers, own-account workers, or unpaid family workers.

3. Families with no wage or salary workers.—This category includes those families in which no members in the labor force were classified as wage or salary workers and those families having no members in the labor force.

Persons in the labor force for whom class of worker was not reported have been included among wage or salary workers, unless there was evidence to the contrary. Families with one or more persons in the labor force without previous work experience (new workers) were classified on the basis of the entries on class of worker for the experienced workers in the family.

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

