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ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, FOR SELECTED DATES: APRIL 1, 1940, TO JANUARY 1, 1947

(Estimates of population by months for dates since the last census not shown in this release are available in releases No. 29 and No. 34 of Series P-3; in releases No. 5, No. 14, and No. 21 of Series P-44; in release No. 1 of Series P-46; and in release No. 1 of Series P-47)

Population growth in 1946 was the largest in any year of our history, according to estimates released today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. An increase of about 2,279,000 during this year brought the total population of the United States including armed forces overseas to 142,673,000 on January 1, 1947.

Population growth for the whole period since the last census (April 1, 1940) has in fact been unusually great. The January, 1947, figure represents an increase of about 11 million, or 8.4 percent, in these 6 3/4 years, as compared with an increase of less than 9 million, or 7.2 percent, in the entire decade preceding April 1, 1940. Most of this recent growth resulted from natural increase (excess of births over deaths), since net immigration (including movements of both citizens and aliens) contributed less than 900,000, or 8 percent, of the total gain.

The large rise in the birth rate following demobilization, the continuation of the death rate at a low level, and a small net immigration amounting to about 251,000 account for the striking increase in 1946. Growth in this year far exceeded that in 1943--the peak year of wartime growth. Gains in the war years are as follows: 1,693,000 in 1942, 1,722,000 in 1943, 1,554,000 in 1944, and 1,471,000 in 1945. The year 1943 does not, however, represent the previous high year. Gains in several years in earlier decades of this century were greater.

Most of the increase in 1946 was concentrated in the second half of the year. This is partly due to the fact that natural increase is seasonally greater in that part of the year, but largely because the birth rate showed a huge and steady increase between June and December. The increase in population from July to December was 1,444,000 as compared with 835,000 from January to June.

Estimates of population including armed forces overseas, and the components of population change, for July 1, 1946, to January 1, 1947, together with figures for each earlier January 1 and July 1 since the last census, are shown in table 1. The following provisional estimates of population for more recent months, based on incomplete and tentative data, indicate that our population has continued to grow rapidly:

February 1, 1947.....	142,921,000
March 1, 1947.....	143,138,000
April 1, 1947.....	143,366,000
May 1, 1947.....	143,566,000
June 1, 1947.....	143,778,000
July 1, 1947.....	144,002,000
August 1, 1947.....	144,239,000

The population excluding armed forces overseas, that is, the population actually present in the United States, increased by 5,047,000, or 3.7 percent, during 1946, reaching 141,892,000 on January 1, 1947. This marked growth mainly reflects the postwar return of large numbers of servicemen from overseas, which was concentrated in the early part of the year, and

the extremely high birth rate in the latter part of the year, referred to earlier. Since the first of these factors outweighed the second in its effect on the growth of the population within the United States, the increase in the first six months of the year far exceeded that in the remainder of the year, the respective figures being 3,048,000 and 1,999,000.

The civilian population also showed a striking increase in 1946, resulting largely from heavy demobilization. It reached 140,974,000 on January 1, 1947, following an increase of 7,210,000, or 5.4 percent, in the preceding 12 months. Of this increase, the excess of births over deaths and net immigration account for about 2,300,000 and the reduction in armed forces strength account for about 4,900,000.

Estimates of the population excluding armed forces overseas and of the civilian population, by months, for July 1, 1946, to January 1, 1947, together with figures for each earlier January 1 and July 1 since the last census, are shown in table 2. Provisional estimates for more recent

months, based on incomplete and tentative data, are as follows:

	<u>Population excluding armed forces overseas</u>	<u>Civilian population</u>
February 1, 1947.....	142,146,000	141,284,000
March 1, 1947.....	142,395,000	141,548,000
April 1, 1947.....	142,654,000	141,821,000
May 1, 1947.....	142,884,000	142,101,000
June 1, 1947.....	143,137,000	142,379,000
July 1, 1947.....	143,382,000	142,628,000

The estimates presented in the accompanying tables are based on the 1940 census and on statistics of births, deaths, immigration, emigration, and the armed forces since the census. The birth and death figures are corrected for incomplete registration; the death statistics include both combat and noncombat deaths of military personnel overseas. The figures for dates in 1946 and 1947 are preliminary.

Estimates are presented to the last digit, as computed, instead of being rounded, not because they are assumed to be accurate to the last place but for convenience in summation.

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Table 1.--ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES INCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, FOR SPECIFIED DATES: APRIL 1, 1940, TO JANUARY 1, 1947

DATE	Estimated population	INCREASE SINCE APRIL 1, 1940		CHANGE SINCE PRECEDING DATE					
		Number	Percent	Net increase		Births ¹	Deaths ¹	Excess of births over deaths	Net civilian arrivals from abroad ²
				Number	Percent				
BY SIX-MONTH INTERVALS									
January 1, 1947.....	144,000 142,672,762	11,008,487	8.36	1,444,069	1.02	2,017,255	678,035	1,339,220	104,849
July 1, 1946.....	141,228,693	9,559,418	7.26	835,022	0.59	1,424,255	734,939	689,316	145,706
January 1, 1946.....	140,393,671	8,724,396	6.63	808,153	0.58	1,472,268	710,080	762,188	45,965
July 1, 1945.....	139,585,518	7,916,243	6.01	662,884	0.48	1,422,212	866,036	556,176	106,708
January 1, 1945.....	138,922,684	7,253,359	5.51	839,185	0.61	1,533,007	786,027	746,980	92,205
July 1, 1944.....	138,083,449	6,414,174	4.87	715,070	0.52	1,486,179	794,451	641,728	73,342
January 1, 1944.....	137,368,379	5,699,104	4.33	871,330	0.64	1,580,383	761,926	818,457	52,873
July 1, 1943.....	136,497,049	4,827,774	3.67	851,080	0.63	1,578,210	786,014	792,196	58,884
January 1, 1943.....	135,645,969	3,976,694	3.02	981,045	0.73	1,680,967	701,054	929,913	51,132
July 1, 1942.....	134,664,924	2,995,649	2.23	711,699	0.53	1,407,467	733,223	674,244	37,455
January 1, 1942.....	133,958,225	2,283,950	1.73	750,352	0.56	1,400,533	681,971	718,562	31,790
July 1, 1941.....	133,202,873	1,533,598	1.16	564,940	0.43	1,316,685	761,117	555,568	9,372
January 1, 1941.....	132,637,933	968,658	0.74	667,709	0.51	1,311,428	692,971	618,457	49,252
July 1, 1940.....	131,970,224	300,949	0.23	300,949	0.23	623,065	353,212	269,853	31,096
April 1, 1940 (Census)....	131,669,275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BY MONTHS									
January 1, 1947.....	142,672,762	11,008,487	8.36	229,758	0.16	361,412	127,533	233,879	-4,121
December 1, 1946.....	142,443,004	10,773,729	8.18	240,556	0.17	349,486	113,730	235,756	4,800
November 1, 1946.....	142,202,448	10,533,173	8.00	269,387	0.19	354,644	113,046	241,598	27,789
October 1, 1946.....	141,933,061	10,263,786	7.80	285,331	0.19	336,373	107,744	228,629	36,702
September 1, 1946.....	141,667,730	9,998,455	7.59	236,779	0.17	320,640	105,769	214,871	21,908
August 1, 1946.....	141,430,951	9,761,676	7.41	202,258	0.14	294,700	110,213	184,487	17,771
July 1, 1946.....	141,228,693	9,559,418	7.26	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Estimated total, including an adjustment for underregistration.
² A minus sign (-) denotes net departures from continental United States.

Table 2.--ESTIMATED POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES EXCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, AND ESTIMATED CIVILIAN POPULATION, FOR SPECIFIED DATES: APRIL 1, 1940, TO JANUARY 1, 1947

DATE	ESTIMATED POPULATION EXCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS				ESTIMATED CIVILIAN POPULATION			
	Population	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since preceding date		Population	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since preceding date			
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		
BY SIX-MONTH INTERVALS								
July 1, 1947.....	143,328,000 141,892,185	+1,998,779	+1.43	142,628 140,974,155	+2,579,681	+1.86		
July 1, 1946.....	139,893,406	+3,048,465	+2.23	138,394,474	+4,630,307	+3.46		
January 1, 1946.....	138,844,941	+4,826,416	+3.66	133,764,167	+6,812,119	+4.95		
July 1, 1945.....	132,018,525	+279,234	+0.21	127,452,048	+339,439	+0.27		
January 1, 1945.....	131,739,291	-812,714	-0.61	127,112,609	+576,435	+0.46		
July 1, 1944.....	132,552,005	-1,028,278	-0.77	126,536,174	-491,862	-0.39		
January 1, 1944.....	132,580,283	-386,036	-0.29	127,028,036	-382,321	-0.30		
July 1, 1943.....	133,966,319	-75,345	-0.06	127,410,357	-1,317,436	-1.02		
January 1, 1943.....	134,041,664	+271,164	+0.20	128,727,843	-2,147,067	-1.64		
July 1, 1942.....	133,770,500	+82,057	+0.06	130,374,910	-1,063,155	-0.81		
January 1, 1942.....	133,688,443	+628,398	+0.47	131,943,065	+235,335	+0.29		
July 1, 1941.....	133,060,045	+499,202	+0.38	131,557,730	-339,229	-0.26		
January 1, 1941.....	132,560,843	+606,699	+0.46	131,896,959	+237,673	+0.18		
July 1, 1940.....	131,954,144	+284,869	+0.22	131,659,286	+257,301	+0.20		
April 1, 1940 (Census)....	131,669,275	-	-	131,401,985	-	-		
BY MONTHS								
January 1, 1947.....	141,892,185	+245,604	+0.17	140,974,155	+366,273	+0.26		
December 1, 1946.....	141,646,581	+261,262	+0.18	140,607,882	+424,663	+0.30		
November 1, 1946.....	141,385,319	+376,034	+0.27	140,183,219	+429,935	+0.31		
October 1, 1946.....	141,009,235	+366,406	+0.26	139,753,284	+341,471	+0.24		
September 1, 1946.....	140,642,879	+373,212	+0.27	139,411,813	+516,631	+0.37		
August 1, 1946.....	140,269,667	+376,261	+0.27	138,895,182	+500,708	+0.36		
July 1, 1946.....	139,893,406	-	-	138,394,474	-	-		