DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
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ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1948

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

The population of continental United States on July 1, 1948, exceeded 146½ million, according to a provisional estimate released today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This figure includes about 145.3 million civilians in this country plus all persons in the armed forces, whether here or abroad.

The increase in population between April 1, 1940, the date of the last census, and July 1, 1948, was almost 15 million, or more than 11 percent of the 131,669,275 persons enumerated in 1940. Population growth in the 8¼ years following the 1940 census already greatly exceeds the increase of less than 9 million persons during the 10 years preceding that census. It is now virtually certain that even if population increase in the next few years is only moderate, the census to be taken in April, 1950, will reveal the largest absolute intercensal population increase in our history, exceeding the previous record increase of about 17 million during the twenties.

Population changes in the years since 1940 have been somewhat irregular. The greatest growth took place between July 1, 1946, and June 30, 1947, when approximately 2.8 million persons were added to the population. In the year following, the population gain was somewhat smaller, being only about 2.5 million; it was, however, still far greater than the largest annual increase during the war years, namely 1.8 million between July 1, 1942, and June 30, 1943. The combined population gain for the two years after July 1, 1946, was about 5.3 million, or 36 percent of the total gain since April 1, 1940. In contrast, the population gain for the two years after July 1, 1940, was only half as great, being about 2.7 million.

The primary factor in the rapid rate of growth of the population in recent years has been the tremendous postwar rise in the birth rate, which is due very largely to the demobilization of men from the armed forces.[1] This rise has been associated with a continuing high level of employment, a high marriage rate, and an optimistic outlook resulting from the termination of the war and the reunion of families. Also favorable to a very rapid increase of population in recent years, but of less importance than the rise in the birth rate, were low death rates and a slight increase in net immigration.

Estimates of the population including armed forces overseas, by months, for January 1, 1946, to July 1, 1948, and for July 1 of each year since the last census, together with the components of population change, are shown in table 1.[2]

The population excluding armed forces overseas (i.e., the civilian population plus armed forces stationed in the United States) was about

[1] Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 18.

[2] In the 1940 census the armed forces of the United States serving overseas were excluded from the figure for the total population of continental United States. It is estimated that this group numbered about 151,000. The estimates of the total population of continental United States including armed forces overseas for July 1, 1940, and subsequent dates were computed by adding births and immigrants and subtracting deaths and emigrants from the population enumerated on April 1, 1940. As a result the estimates also exclude 151,000 persons and are comparable with the figure from the 1940 census.

15442

146,116,000 on July 1, 1948. This group gained about 2,702,000 persons between July 1, 1947, and July 1, 1948; the net return of servicemen to the United States contributed only a small proportion of the increase. The greatest growth took place in the 12 months ending July 1, 1946, just following the end of the war, when about four-fifths of the increase of 7,881,000 was due to the demobilization of the armed forces.

Similarly, recent increases in the civilian population are not so striking as those that occurred in the period immediately following the end of the war. In the 12 months preceding July 1, 1948, the civilian population increased from 142,660,000 to 145,306,000, a gain of 2,647,000, as compared with an increase of almost 11 million in the 12 months ending July 1, 1946.

Estimates of the population excluding armed forces overseas and of the civilian population, by months, for January 1, 1946, to July 1, 1948, and for July 1 of each year since the last census, are shown in table 2.

The estimates presented in the accompanying tables are based on statistics from the 1940 census; statistics of births and deaths, provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; statistics of immigration and emigration, provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and data relating to the size and distribution of the armed forces obtained from armed forces records. The birth and death figures have been adjusted for underregistration, the adjustment of deaths for the more recent years included in this report being confined to deaths of children under one year of age. Combat and noncombat deaths of military personnel overseas are included in the death statistics.

The estimates given in this report for each month from February 1, 1946, to January 1, 1948, supersede those for the same dates given in Population--Special Reports, Series P-47, No. 1, and in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 3, 6, and 7. The estimates for 1947 and 1948 presented in this release are preliminary and subject to further revision.

The absolute figures presented in this report have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Figures for component groups have not been adjusted to totals, which have been independently rounded. Derived figures are based on the unrounded absolute numbers.

45442

Table 1.--ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES INCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS: 1940 TO 1948

(Absolute figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Figures for component groups have not been adjusted to totals, which have been independently rounded. Derived figures are based on the unrounded absolute numbers)

Date	Population	Increase since April 1, 1940		Change since preceding date					
		Number	Per-cent	Net increase		Births[1]	Deaths[1]	Excess of births over deaths[1]	Net civilian arrivals from abroad[2]
				Number	Per-cent				
BY YEARS									
July 1, 1948	146,571,000	14,902,000	11.32	2,538,000	1.76	3,700,000	1,458,000	2,242,000	296,000
July 1, 1947	144,034,000	12,364,000	9.39	2,799,000	1.98	3,997,000	1,428,000	2,569,000	230,000
July 1, 1946	141,235,000	9,565,000	7.26	1,649,000	1.18	2,897,000	1,440,000	1,457,000	192,000
July 1, 1945	139,586,000	7,916,000	6.01	1,502,000	1.09	2,955,000	1,652,000	1,303,000	199,000
July 1, 1944	138,083,000	6,414,000	4.87	1,586,000	1.16	3,017,000	1,556,000	1,460,000	126,000
July 1, 1943	136,497,000	4,828,000	3.67	1,832,000	1.36	3,209,000	1,487,000	1,722,000	110,000
July 1, 1942	134,665,000	2,996,000	2.28	1,462,000	1.10	2,808,000	1,415,000	1,393,000	69,000
July 1, 1941	133,203,000	1,534,000	1.16	1,233,000	0.93	2,628,000	1,454,000	1,174,000	59,000
July 1, 1940	131,970,000	301,000	0.23	301,000	0.23	623,000	353,000	270,000	31,000
April 1, 1940 (census)	131,669,275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BY MONTHS									
July 1, 1948	146,571,000	14,902,000	11.32	186,000	0.13	284,000	115,000	169,000	17,000
June 1, 1948	146,386,000	14,716,000	11.18	177,000	0.12	286,000	120,000	166,000	11,000
May 1, 1948	146,209,000	14,540,000	11.04	190,000	0.13	292,000	121,000	171,000	19,000
April 1, 1948	146,018,000	14,349,000	10.90	209,000	0.14	312,000	131,000	181,000	28,000
March 1, 1948	145,809,000	14,140,000	10.74	187,000	0.13	291,000	129,000	162,000	25,000
February 1, 1948	145,622,000	13,953,000	10.60	188,000	0.13	304,000	137,000	167,000	22,000
January 1, 1948	145,434,000	13,765,000	10.45	196,000	0.13	308,000	133,000	175,000	21,000
December 1, 1947	145,239,000	13,569,000	10.31	208,000	0.14	302,000	117,000	184,000	24,000
November 1, 1947	145,030,000	13,361,000	10.15	235,000	0.16	328,000	118,000	210,000	25,000
October 1, 1947	144,796,000	13,126,000	9.97	267,000	0.18	328,000	108,000	220,000	47,000
September 1, 1947	144,529,000	12,860,000	9.77	249,000	0.17	331,000	114,000	217,000	32,000
August 1, 1947	144,280,000	12,611,000	9.58	246,000	0.17	335,000	114,000	221,000	25,000
July 1, 1947	144,034,000	12,364,000	9.39	225,000	0.16	317,000	114,000	204,000	21,000
June 1, 1947	143,809,000	12,140,000	9.22	214,000	0.15	317,000	120,000	196,000	18,000
May 1, 1947	143,595,000	11,926,000	9.06	210,000	0.15	312,000	127,000	184,000	26,000
April 1, 1947	143,385,000	11,716,000	8.90	231,000	0.16	339,000	138,000	201,000	30,000
March 1, 1947	143,154,000	11,485,000	8.72	212,000	0.15	320,000	119,000	201,000	11,000
February 1, 1947	142,943,000	11,273,000	8.56	247,000	0.17	359,000	133,000	226,000	21,000
January 1, 1947	142,696,000	11,026,000	8.37	225,000	0.16	356,000	127,000	229,000	-4,000
December 1, 1946	142,471,000	10,802,000	8.20	240,000	0.17	349,000	114,000	235,000	5,000
November 1, 1946	142,231,000	10,562,000	8.02	270,000	0.19	356,000	114,000	242,000	28,000
October 1, 1946	141,961,000	10,292,000	7.82	272,000	0.19	342,000	107,000	235,000	37,000
September 1, 1946	141,689,000	10,020,000	7.61	245,000	0.17	328,000	106,000	223,000	22,000
August 1, 1946	141,445,000	9,775,000	7.42	210,000	0.15	301,000	109,000	192,000	18,000
July 1, 1946	141,235,000	9,565,000	7.26	165,000	0.12	255,000	111,000	144,000	21,000
June 1, 1946	141,069,000	9,400,000	7.14	169,000	0.12	245,000	117,000	129,000	40,000
May 1, 1946	140,901,000	9,231,000	7.01	152,000	0.11	232,000	116,000	117,000	35,000
April 1, 1946	140,749,000	9,080,000	6.90	146,000	0.10	240,000	125,000	115,000	31,000
March 1, 1946	140,603,000	8,934,000	6.79	109,000	0.08	217,000	121,000	97,000	12,000
February 1, 1946	140,494,000	8,825,000	6.70	101,000	0.07	235,000	141,000	94,000	6,000
January 1, 1946	140,394,000	8,724,000	6.63	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

45 442

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES EXCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, AND ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION: 1940 TO 1948

(Absolute figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Figures for component groups have not been adjusted to totals, which have been independently rounded. Derived figures are based on unrounded absolute numbers)

Date	Population excluding armed forces overseas			Civilian population		
	Population	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since preceding date		Population	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since preceding date	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
BY YEARS						
July 1, 1948	146,116,000	+2,702,000	+1.88	145,306,000	+2,647,000	+1.86
July 1, 1947	143,414,000	+3,515,000	+2.51	142,660,000	+4,259,000	+3.08
July 1, 1946	139,899,000	+7,881,000	+5.97	138,400,000	+10,948,000	+8.59
July 1, 1945	132,019,000	-533,000	-0.40	127,452,000	+916,000	+0.72
July 1, 1944	132,552,000	-1,414,000	-1.06	126,536,000	-874,000	-0.69
July 1, 1943	133,966,000	+196,000	+0.15	127,410,000	-3,465,000	-2.65
July 1, 1942	133,771,000	+710,000	+0.53	130,875,000	-683,000	-0.52
July 1, 1941	133,060,000	+1,106,000	+0.84	131,558,000	-102,000	-0.08
July 1, 1940	131,954,000	+285,000	+0.22	131,659,000	+257,000	+0.20
April 1, 1940 (census)	131,669,275	-	-	131,402,000	-	-
BY MONTHS						
July 1, 1948	146,116,000	+190,000	+0.13	145,306,000	+191,000	+0.13
June 1, 1948	145,926,000	+171,000	+0.12	145,115,000	+164,000	+0.11
May 1, 1948	145,755,000	+187,000	+0.13	144,951,000	+177,000	+0.12
April 1, 1948	145,568,000	+216,000	+0.15	144,774,000	+215,000	+0.15
March 1, 1948	145,352,000	+201,000	+0.14	144,559,000	+183,000	+0.13
February 1, 1948	145,151,000	+194,000	+0.13	144,376,000	+192,000	+0.13
January 1, 1948	144,957,000	+232,000	+0.16	144,184,000	+236,000	+0.16
December 1, 1947	144,725,000	+235,000	+0.16	143,948,000	+235,000	+0.16
November 1, 1947	144,490,000	+273,000	+0.19	143,713,000	+256,000	+0.18
October 1, 1947	144,217,000	+275,000	+0.19	143,457,000	+280,000	+0.20
September 1, 1947	143,942,000	+265,000	+0.18	143,177,000	+263,000	+0.18
August 1, 1947	143,676,000	+262,000	+0.18	142,914,000	+254,000	+0.18
July 1, 1947	143,414,000	+246,000	+0.17	142,660,000	+250,000	+0.18
June 1, 1947	143,168,000	+255,000	+0.18	142,410,000	+280,000	+0.20
May 1, 1947	142,913,000	+235,000	+0.16	142,130,000	+285,000	+0.20
April 1, 1947	142,679,000	+267,000	+0.19	141,845,000	+286,000	+0.20
March 1, 1947	142,412,000	+244,000	+0.17	141,559,000	+253,000	+0.18
February 1, 1947	142,168,000	+253,000	+0.18	141,306,000	+309,000	+0.22
January 1, 1947	141,915,000	+241,000	+0.17	140,997,000	+361,000	+0.26
December 1, 1946	141,675,000	+261,000	+0.18	140,636,000	+424,000	+0.30
November 1, 1946	141,414,000	+377,000	+0.27	140,212,000	+431,000	+0.31
October 1, 1946	141,037,000	+373,000	+0.26	139,781,000	+348,000	+0.25
September 1, 1946	140,664,000	+381,000	+0.27	139,433,000	+525,000	+0.38
August 1, 1946	140,283,000	+384,000	+0.27	138,909,000	+508,000	+0.37
July 1, 1946	139,899,000	+290,000	+0.21	138,400,000	+492,000	+0.36
June 1, 1946	139,610,000	+421,000	+0.30	137,908,000	+557,000	+0.41
May 1, 1946	139,189,000	+402,000	+0.29	137,351,000	+688,000	+0.50
April 1, 1946	138,786,000	+439,000	+0.32	136,663,000	+702,000	+0.52
March 1, 1946	138,347,000	+512,000	+0.37	135,961,000	+1,014,000	+0.75
February 1, 1946	137,835,000	+990,000	+0.72	134,946,000	+1,182,000	+0.88
January 1, 1946	136,845,000	-	-	133,764,000	-	-

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