DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

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PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, BY MONTHS: NOVEMBER 1, 1948, TO JANUARY 1, 1949

The population of the United States including armed forces overseas was about 148,000,000 on January 1, 1949, according to estimates released today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. There were about 145,434,000 persons in the population of the United States a year earlier and 131,669,275 persons on April 1, 1940, the date of the last census. In the 8-3/4 year period since the last census the population increased by over 16 million persons, or 12.4 percent of the number then [illegible]ted. Provisional estimates of the popu[illegible] of the United States including armed forces overseas, for November 1, 1948, to January 1, 1949, by months, are as follows:

November 1, 1948.....	147,525,000
December 1, 1948.....	147,737,000
January 1, 1949.....	147,946,000

Population growth during 1948, although great in number and at a relatively high rate, was not quite so marked as that during 1947, the peak year for population growth since the last census. During 1947, the increase in the population amounted to about 2,739,000, or 1.9 percent of the population at the start of the year; the 1948 increase was approximately 2,512,000, or 1.7 percent of the population at the start of the year. Although population growth in 1948 was somewhat smaller than in 1947, it still surpassed that of every other year since the last census, including the gain during 1943, the year of peak wartime growth.

The growth of the population since the last census is largely attributable to natural increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths. Approximately 91 percent of the increase in population stems from this source; the remaining 9 [illegible]ent represents population gain as a result of [illegible] immigration. During 1948 the relative impor[illegible]ance of these factors was approximately the same.

The population including armed forces stationed in the United States but excluding those serving overseas (that is, the total population actually present in the United States) and the civilian population on January 1, 1949, are estimated at 147,449,000 and 146,463,000, respectively. Because there was a relatively large increase in the number of persons serving in the armed forces inside continental United States, the increase in the population actually present in the United States was somewhat greater than the increase in the civilian population during the year. The strength of the armed forces overseas remained relatively constant between January 1, 1948, and January 1, 1949. Provisional estimates of the population excluding armed forces overseas and of the civilian population for recent months are as follows:

	Population excluding armed forces overseas	Civilian population
November 1, 1948.....	147,044,000	146,086,000
December 1, 1948.....	147,248,000	146,275,000
January 1, 1949.....	147,449,000	146,463,000

The estimates presented in this report are based on the 1940 census; statistics of births and deaths provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; statistics on immigration and emigration provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and data on the size and distribution of the armed forces provided by the Department of National Defense. The figures on births and deaths have been adjusted for incomplete registration.

Comparable estimates for earlier months in 1948, for each month in 1946 and 1947, and for July 1 of each year, 1940 to 1945, are available in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 13 and 17.

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