PARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, BY MONTHS: FEBRUARY 1 TO APRIL 1, 1949

The population of continental United States including armed forces overseas stood at about 148,527,000 on April 1, 1949, according to estimates released today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This figure represents an increase in 9 years of slightly less than 17 million persons, or 12.8 percent of the 131,669,275 persons enumerated on April 1, 1940, the date of the last census. Provisional estimates of the population including armed forces overseas for February 1, March 1, and April 1, 1949, are as follows:

February 1, 1949.....	148,139,000
March 1, 1949.....	148,324,000
April 1, 1949.....	148,527,000

The increase in population during the first quarter of 1949 was the same as during the corresponding period in 1948--580,000 in each case.

Population growth during the first 9 years of this decade was about the same as that during the whole decade of the twenties, when there was a record increase of 17.1 million persons. From all indications, the Seventeenth Decennial Census, to be taken in April, 1950, will record the largest absolute intercensal population increase in our history, exceeding the increase of the previous decade (less than 9 million) by more than 100 percent. The primary factor in the great growth of population during this decade has been the tremendous wartime and postwar rise in the birth rate associated with a continuing high level of employment, a high marriage rate, and postwar demobilization of the armed forces. Also favorable to a very rapid increase in population, but of less importance than the rise in the birth rate, have been low death rates and a moderate volume of immigration.

The total population actually present in the United States (that is, the population including armed forces stationed in the United States but excluding those serving overseas), and the civilian population, on April 1, 1949, are estimated at 148,018,000 and 147,034,000, respectively. Because there were only slight changes in the size and distribution of the armed forces between January 1 and April 1, 1949, the increase during this period in the population present in the United States and in the civilian population was approximately the same as that in the total population including armed forces overseas. Provisional estimates of the population excluding armed forces overseas, and of the civilian population, for recent months in 1949 are as follows:

	Population excluding armed forces overseas	Civilian population
February 1, 1949.....	147,629,000	146,625,000
March 1, 1949.....	147,815,000	146,815,000
April 1, 1949.....	148,018,000	147,034,000

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 National Military Establishment. The figures on births and deaths have been adjusted for incomplete registration.

Comparable estimates for January 1, 1949, for each month in 1946, 1947, 1948, and for July 1 of each year, 1940 to 1945, are available in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 13, 17, and 19.

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