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ESTIMATES OF THE NONWHITE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, BY RACE: 1940 TO 1947

The Negro population of continental United States numbered about 14,460,000 in July, 1947, according to estimates released today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. At the time of the last census (April, 1940), there were 12,865,518 Negroes in the United States. The increase in the 7½-year period since the census (1,594,000 persons, or 12.4 percent of the 1940 Negro population) was at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent per year; for the white population, the average annual rate of growth was about 1.2 percent per year. Inasmuch as Negroes constituted approximately 96 percent of the total nonwhite population in both 1940 and 1947, changes in the size of this group between 1940 and 1947 closely approximated changes in the total nonwhite population.

Estimates of the nonwhite population of continental United States including armed forces overseas, by race, for July 1 of each year, 1940 to 1947, are shown in the accompanying table. According to these estimates, the nonwhite population as a whole numbered about 15,139,000 in July, 1947, as compared with 13,454,405 in April, 1940. Thus, the nonwhite population increased by 1,685,000 persons, or 12.5 percent, in this period. By July, 1948, the number of nonwhites had grown to 15,445,000, and was 14.8 percent greater than in 1940.

Of the leading nonwhite racial groups, the American Indian population had the largest proportionate increase (20.3 percent) between 1940 and 1947. In 1930 and 1940, however, the number of American Indians reported in the census was virtually the same. There were about 402,000 American Indians in 1947 and 333,969 in 1940. In 1947 as in 1940 American Indians made up about three-fifths of the nonwhite population excluding the Negroes.

The Japanese had the smallest increase between 1940 and 1947 of the nonwhite racial groups shown here. There were 126,947 Japanese at the time of the last census and about 131,000 in 1947. These figures indicate an increase of only 4,000 persons, or 2.9 percent of the 1940 Japanese population in continental United States. The growth of the Japanese population was retarded in part because of relatively heavy out-migration during the early years of the decade. There were approximately 87,000 Chinese in the United States in 1947, as compared with 77,504 in 1940. This group grew at about the same rate as the nonwhite population as a whole in this period. The other nonwhite races, which constituted only about 0.4 percent of the total nonwhite population in both 1940 and 1947, numbered about 60,000 persons in 1947 and 50,467 in 1940. In 1940 Filipinos made up about 90 percent of this group but there were also small numbers of Asiatic Indians, Koreans, Polynesians, and other Asiatics.

The estimates presented in the accompanying table are based on the 1940 Population Census; statistics of births and deaths, provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; and statistics of immigration and emigration, provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The statistics on births and deaths have been corrected for incomplete registration, and an allowance has been made for deaths of military personnel serving overseas.

Estimates of the age and sex distribution of the total nonwhite population, as well as of the white population, for July 1 of each year, 1940 to 1948, consistent with the figures shown in this report, are given in Population--Special Reports, Series P-47, No. 3, and Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 21.

ESTIMATES OF THE NONWHITE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES INCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, BY RACE:
JULY 1, 1940 TO 1947

(Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand without adjustment to group totals, which are independently rounded.
Derived figures are based on the unrounded absolute numbers)

Date	Total nonwhite	Negro	American Indian	Japanese	Chinese	Other races ¹
POPULATION						
July 1, 1947.....	15,139,000	14,460,000	402,000	131,000	87,000	60,000
July 1, 1946.....	14,805,000	14,150,000	389,000	128,000	83,000	55,000
July 1, 1945.....	14,558,000	13,914,000	379,000	128,000	81,000	55,000
July 1, 1944.....	14,325,000	13,696,000	369,000	126,000	79,000	54,000
July 1, 1943.....	14,096,000	13,481,000	360,000	124,000	79,000	53,000
July 1, 1942.....	13,864,000	13,262,000	351,000	122,000	78,000	51,000
July 1, 1941.....	13,661,000	13,067,000	344,000	122,000	77,000	50,000
July 1, 1940.....	13,494,000	12,903,000	336,000	127,000	78,000	50,000
April 1, 1940 (census).....	13,454,405	12,865,518	333,969	126,947	77,504	50,467
INCREASE SINCE APRIL 1, 1940 ²						
Number						
July 1, 1947.....	1,685,000	1,594,000	68,000	4,000	9,000	10,000
July 1, 1946.....	1,350,000	1,284,000	55,000	1,000	5,000	5,000
July 1, 1945.....	1,103,000	1,049,000	46,000	1,000	4,000	4,000
July 1, 1944.....	870,000	831,000	35,000	-1,000	2,000	3,000
July 1, 1943.....	642,000	615,000	26,000	-3,000	1,000	2,000
July 1, 1942.....	410,000	396,000	17,000	-5,000	-	1,000
July 1, 1941.....	207,000	202,000	11,000	-5,000	-	-
July 1, 1940.....	40,000	38,000	2,000	-	-	-
Percent						
July 1, 1947.....	12.5	12.4	20.3	2.9	12.0	19.6
July 1, 1946.....	10.0	10.0	16.5	1.0	6.7	9.3
July 1, 1945.....	8.2	8.1	13.6	0.5	5.1	8.9
July 1, 1944.....	6.5	6.5	10.6	-0.9	2.4	6.6
July 1, 1943.....	4.8	4.8	7.9	-2.4	1.5	4.6
July 1, 1942.....	3.0	3.1	5.0	-3.7	-	1.8
July 1, 1941.....	1.5	1.6	3.1	-3.9	-	-
July 1, 1940.....	0.3	0.3	0.6	-	-	-

¹ In April, 1940, the category "Other races" comprised the following groups: Filipinos, 45,563; Asiatic Indians, 2,405; Koreans, 1,711; Polynesians, 657; and other Asiatics, 131.

² A minus sign (-) denotes decrease. Change not shown where less than 500.