

# CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

## POPULATION ESTIMATES

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### ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1949

(The estimates given in this report supersede the figures for February 1, 1947, to June 1, 1949, given in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 25. Comparable estimates for earlier dates are available in Population, Series P-3, Nos. 29 and 34; in Population--Special Reports, Series P-44, Nos. 5, 14, and 21, Series P-46, No. 1, and Series P-47, No. 1; and in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 13)

The population of the United States is rapidly approaching the 150-million mark, according to estimates released today by Philip M. Hauser, Acting Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. On July 1, 1949, the total population was estimated at 149,215,000, of which about 148 million were civilians living here and the balance persons in the armed forces at home or abroad.

The Seventeenth Census of the United States, which will be conducted in April, 1950, will provide similar figures from a complete count of the population; the estimates announced now are based on figures from the last census (April 1, 1940), brought up to date from official records of births, deaths, net immigration, and strength and geographic distribution of the armed forces.

The increase in the population of the United States between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1949, is estimated at about 17½ million, or more than 13 percent of the 131,669,275 persons enumerated in the last census. Although the total population grew continuously, there appear to have been three different phases of growth roughly corresponding to the prewar period, the war period, and the postwar period. In the prewar period (April 1, 1940, to July 1, 1941), there was an annual average increase of about 1.2 million persons. During the war period (July 1, 1941, to July 1, 1946), the annual average increase was about 1.6 million persons. The postwar increase (July 1, 1946, to July 1, 1949) averaged about 2.7 million persons per year, a rate more than twice that of the prewar period.

The trend in each component of population change--births, deaths, and net immigration--has contributed to the recent rapid growth of the population. The birth rate per 1,000 population rose sharply after July 1, 1946.<sup>1</sup> The death rate, though varying only from 12 to 10 deaths per 1,000 population, has shown a slight tendency to decrease. Consequently, the jump in the birth rate produced a jump in the annual rate of natural increase from 10.4 per 1,000 population just prior to July 1, 1946, to 17.9 in the following 12 months. In the last two years, there has been only a slight decrease in the birth rate and the rate of natural increase has been maintained at 15.4 per 1,000 population, a relatively high level for the United States, compared with the rates of the last 20 years.

Although net civilian immigration has contributed only a relatively small proportion of the total population increase, 10 percent of the increase between April, 1940, and July, 1949, there have been fairly consistent increases during the period in the ratio of net immigrants to population. Between 1940 and 1949 net immigration increased from less than 1 person per 1,000 population to about 2½.

<sup>1</sup> See table 1, which presents the crude birth and death rates and rates of natural increase and net civilian immigration implicit in the estimates of the total population including armed forces overseas. These rates are not comparable with the rates prepared by the National Office of Vital Statistics because of differences in definition. Births and deaths have been corrected for underregistration, and an allowance has been made for deaths of military personnel stationed abroad.

Estimates of the population including armed forces overseas, by months, for January 1, 1947, to July 1, 1949, and for July 1 of each year since the last census, together with the components of population change, are shown in table 2.

The total population present in continental United States, that is, the population excluding armed forces overseas, was about 148,720,000 on July 1, 1949. Between 1940 and 1949, this group increased by about 17,051,000, or one-half million less than the gain in the population including armed forces overseas.

On July 1, 1949, the civilian population numbered approximately 147,752,000, or about 1½ million less than the population including armed forces overseas and 1 million less than the total population present in continental United States. Since April, 1940, the civilian population has had a net increase of 16,350,000 persons.

Estimates of the total population present in continental United States and of the civilian population, by months, for January 1, 1947, to July 1, 1949, and for July 1 of each year since the last census, are shown in table 3.

Table 1.--ANNUAL RATES OF NATALITY, MORTALITY, AND NET IMMIGRATION PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION, FOR CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1949

(Rates are based on mid-period estimates of total population including armed forces overseas. Vital rates have been adjusted for underregistration and for mortality of armed forces overseas)

Period	Rate of natural increase	Birth rate	Death rate	Net civilian immigration per 1,000 population
July 1, 1948, to July 1, 1949.....	15.4	25.1	9.7	2.5
July 1, 1947, to July 1, 1948.....	15.4	25.4	10.0	2.1
July 1, 1946, to July 1, 1947.....	17.9	27.9	10.0	1.6
July 1, 1945, to July 1, 1946.....	10.4	20.6	10.3	1.4
July 1, 1944, to July 1, 1945.....	9.4	21.3	11.9	1.4
July 1, 1943, to July 1, 1944.....	10.6	22.0	11.3	0.9
July 1, 1942, to July 1, 1943.....	12.7	23.7	11.0	0.8
July 1, 1941, to July 1, 1942.....	10.4	21.0	10.6	0.5
July 1, 1940, to July 1, 1941.....	8.9	19.8	11.0	0.4
April 1, 1940, to July 1, 1940 <sup>1</sup> .....	8.2	18.9	10.7	0.9

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for length of period. Based on average of estimates of population for May 1 and June 1.

#### METHODS, LIMITATIONS, AND RELIABILITY

The estimates of the total population of the United States including members of the armed forces overseas, given in table 2, 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 on the movement of aliens and citizens into and out of continental United States provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and data relating to the size and geographic distribution of the armed forces obtained from the National Military Establishment.

The birth and death figures used in preparing these estimates were adjusted for underregistration, the adjustment of deaths for the more recent years included in the report being confined

to deaths of children under one year of age.<sup>2</sup> An allowance was made for combat and noncombat deaths of military personnel overseas. No allowance was made for possible underreporting of immigration and emigration.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of adjustment for the underregistration of births is based on the results of a test conducted in connection with the 1940 Population Census. According to the test, 92.5 percent of all births were registered in the 4 months preceding April 1, 1940; by an extension of these results, chiefly on the basis of the increase in the proportion of births occurring in hospitals, where birth registration is nearly complete, it is estimated that in the first half of 1949, 96.0 percent of all births were registered. See: National Office of Vital Statistics, "Estimated Completeness of Birth Registration: United States, 1935 to 1944," Vital Statistics--Special Reports, Vol. 23, No. 10, 1946. The extent of underregistration of deaths is not known. However, it is virtually certain that the completeness of registration of deaths exceeds that of births. Currently it is assumed that infant deaths are underregistered in the same proportion as births, and that deaths of older persons are completely registered.

The estimates of the total population including armed forces overseas were computed by adding the adjusted figures on births and immigrants to, and subtracting the adjusted figures on deaths and emigrants from, the population enumerated on April 1, 1940.<sup>3</sup> Estimates of the total population present in the United States and estimates of the civilian population, given in table 3, were obtained by subtracting from the estimates of the total population including armed forces overseas, estimates of persons in the armed forces overseas and of the total

<sup>3</sup> The 1940 census figures exclude an estimated 863,000 children under 5 years of age who were missed in the enumeration and an estimated 151,000 members of the armed forces of the United States serving overseas. For many purposes it is desirable to compare the estimates with the census figures for 1940 and earlier years as enumerated. Therefore, adjustments have not been made for these excluded persons and the estimates in this report are consistent with the 1940 census figures.

The estimated extent of underenumeration of children under 5 years of age was determined in a special study of the Bureau of the Census. See the 1940 Population Census report, Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910--Standardized Fertility Rates and Reproduction Rates, Appendix A.

strength of the armed forces, both at home and abroad, respectively.

The estimates for 1948 and 1949 presented in this release are preliminary and subject to further revision. However, the effect of any revision of the estimates for the first half of 1948 will probably be negligible, the revision being made only because of possible cumulative effects of under- or over-estimates of the components of population change. The comparable revision of the estimated population as of July 1, 1947, involved a net change of less than 10,000. The effect of revisions in the estimates for the period after July 1, 1948, is much less certain as these figures are based not only on preliminary reports of births and deaths for 1948 and 1949, but on estimates of net immigration.

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.

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES INCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS: 1940 TO 1949

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

Date	Population	Increase since April 1, 1940		Changes since preceding date					
		Number	Per- cent	Net increase		Births <sup>1</sup>	Deaths <sup>1</sup>	Excess of births over deaths <sup>1</sup>	Net civilian immi- gration <sup>2</sup>
				Number	Per- cent				
BY YEARS									
July 1, 1949.....	149,215,000	17,546,000	13.33	2,644,000	1.80	3,723,000	1,442,000	2,281,000	363,000
July 1, 1948.....	146,571,000	14,902,000	11.32	2,547,000	1.77	3,690,000	1,456,000	2,235,000	312,000
July 1, 1947.....	144,024,000	12,355,000	9.38	2,789,000	1.92	3,986,000	1,427,000	2,559,000	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	1,332,000	1.36	3,209,000	1,487,000	1,722,000	110,000
July 1, 1942.....	134,665,000	2,996,000	2.23	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	2,623,000	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, 1949.....	149,215,000	17,546,000	13.33	202,000	0.14	399,000	117,000	182,000	30,000
June 1, 1949.....	149,014,000	17,345,000	13.17	190,000	0.13	291,000	120,000	170,000	20,000
May 1, 1949.....	148,823,000	17,154,000	13.03	184,000	0.12	287,000	123,000	164,000	20,000
April 1, 1949.....	148,639,000	16,970,000	12.89	209,000	0.14	314,000	131,000	183,000	26,000
March 1, 1949.....	148,430,000	16,761,000	12.73	185,000	0.12	283,000	119,000	165,000	20,000
February 1, 1949.....	148,245,000	16,576,000	12.59	194,000	0.13	303,000	130,000	173,000	21,000
January 1, 1949.....	148,051,000	16,382,000	12.44	212,000	0.14	319,000	130,000	189,000	23,000
December 1, 1948.....	147,838,000	16,169,000	12.28	223,000	0.15	308,000	117,000	191,000	37,000
November 1, 1948.....	147,610,000	15,941,000	12.11	252,000	0.17	329,000	120,000	209,000	43,000
October 1, 1948.....	147,358,000	15,689,000	11.92	236,000	0.19	334,000	108,000	226,000	60,000
September 1, 1948.....	147,073,000	15,403,000	11.70	272,000	0.19	333,000	113,000	220,000	52,000
August 1, 1948.....	146,801,000	15,131,000	11.49	230,000	0.16	323,000	115,000	208,000	22,000
July 1, 1948.....	146,571,000	14,902,000	11.32	185,000	0.13	284,000	115,000	169,000	16,000
June 1, 1948.....	146,386,000	14,717,000	11.16	186,000	0.13	286,000	120,000	166,000	20,000
May 1, 1948.....	146,200,000	14,531,000	11.04	192,000	0.13	292,000	121,000	171,000	21,000
April 1, 1948.....	146,007,000	14,338,000	10.89	202,000	0.14	312,000	131,000	181,000	21,000
March 1, 1948.....	145,806,000	14,136,000	10.74	135,000	0.13	291,000	129,000	162,000	23,000
February 1, 1948.....	145,621,000	13,952,000	10.60	195,000	0.13	304,000	137,000	167,000	29,000
January 1, 1948.....	145,426,000	13,757,000	10.45	188,000	0.13	303,000	132,000	171,000	18,000
December 1, 1947.....	145,238,000	13,569,000	10.31	205,000	0.14	302,000	119,000	183,000	22,000
November 1, 1947.....	145,033,000	13,364,000	10.15	234,000	0.16	323,000	117,000	206,000	27,000
October 1, 1947.....	144,799,000	13,130,000	9.97	272,000	0.19	325,000	106,000	219,000	53,000
September 1, 1947.....	144,527,000	12,858,000	9.77	255,000	0.18	325,000	115,000	220,000	35,000
August 1, 1947.....	144,272,000	12,603,000	9.57	248,000	0.17	333,000	113,000	221,000	27,000
July 1, 1947.....	144,024,000	12,355,000	9.38	223,000	0.16	316,000	114,000	202,000	21,000
June 1, 1947.....	143,801,000	12,131,000	9.21	216,000	0.15	318,000	120,000	198,000	12,000
May 1, 1947.....	143,585,000	11,916,000	9.05	206,000	0.14	306,000	126,000	180,000	26,000
April 1, 1947.....	143,379,000	11,710,000	8.89	230,000	0.16	341,000	140,000	201,000	30,000
March 1, 1947.....	143,149,000	11,479,000	8.72	208,000	0.15	316,000	119,000	197,000	11,000
February 1, 1947.....	142,941,000	11,272,000	8.56	245,000	0.17	357,000	132,000	224,000	21,000
January 1, 1947.....	142,696,000	11,026,000	8.37	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for underregistration.

<sup>2</sup> Includes admissions and departures of citizens and aliens.

Table 3.--ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL POPULATION PRESENT IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION: 1940 TO 1949

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

Date	Total population present <sup>1</sup>			Civilian population		
	Population	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since preceding date		Population	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since preceding date	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
BY YEARS						
July 1, 1949.....	148,720,000	+2,607,000	+1.78	147,752,000	+2,462,000	+1.69
July 1, 1948.....	146,113,000	+2,709,000	+1.89	145,290,000	+2,640,000	+1.85
July 1, 1947.....	143,405,000	+3,505,000	+2.51	142,650,000	+4,250,000	+3.07
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	-374,000	-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, 1949.....	148,720,000	+205,000	+0.14	147,752,000	+206,000	+0.14
June 1, 1949.....	148,515,000	+188,000	+0.13	147,546,000	+192,000	+0.13
May 1, 1949.....	148,327,000	+196,000	+0.13	147,354,000	+210,000	+0.14
April 1, 1949.....	148,131,000	+210,000	+0.14	147,145,000	+223,000	+0.15
March 1, 1949.....	147,921,000	+186,000	+0.13	146,921,000	+191,000	+0.13
February 1, 1949.....	147,735,000	+184,000	+0.12	146,731,000	+152,000	+0.10
January 1, 1949.....	147,551,000	+203,000	+0.14	146,578,000	+197,000	+0.13
December 1, 1948.....	147,348,000	+220,000	+0.15	146,381,000	+210,000	+0.14
November 1, 1948.....	147,128,000	+246,000	+0.17	146,171,000	+228,000	+0.16
October 1, 1948.....	146,882,000	+232,000	+0.19	145,943,000	+249,000	+0.17
September 1, 1948.....	146,600,000	+264,000	+0.18	145,694,000	+223,000	+0.15
August 1, 1948.....	146,336,000	+223,000	+0.15	145,471,000	+181,000	+0.12
July 1, 1948.....	146,113,000	+178,000	+0.12	145,290,000	+159,000	+0.11
June 1, 1948.....	145,935,000	+182,000	+0.12	145,131,000	+179,000	+0.12
May 1, 1948.....	145,753,000	+196,000	+0.13	144,952,000	+189,000	+0.13
April 1, 1948.....	145,557,000	+209,000	+0.14	144,763,000	+203,000	+0.14
March 1, 1948.....	145,348,000	+199,000	+0.14	144,555,000	+181,000	+0.13
February 1, 1948.....	145,149,000	+201,000	+0.14	144,375,000	+199,000	+0.14
January 1, 1948.....	144,948,000	+224,000	+0.15	144,176,000	+223,000	+0.16
December 1, 1947.....	144,724,000	+232,000	+0.16	143,947,000	+232,000	+0.16
November 1, 1947.....	144,492,000	+272,000	+0.19	143,716,000	+255,000	+0.18
October 1, 1947.....	144,220,000	+280,000	+0.19	143,461,000	+265,000	+0.20
September 1, 1947.....	143,940,000	+271,000	+0.19	143,175,000	+269,000	+0.19
August 1, 1947.....	143,669,000	+264,000	+0.18	142,906,000	+256,000	+0.18
July 1, 1947.....	143,405,000	+245,000	+0.17	142,650,000	+249,000	+0.17
June 1, 1947.....	143,160,000	+257,000	+0.18	142,401,000	+261,000	+0.20
May 1, 1947.....	142,903,000	+230,000	+0.16	142,120,000	+231,000	+0.20
April 1, 1947.....	142,673,000	+267,000	+0.19	141,839,000	+236,000	+0.20
March 1, 1947.....	142,406,000	+240,000	+0.17	141,553,000	+249,000	+0.18
February 1, 1947.....	142,166,000	+251,000	+0.18	141,304,000	+307,000	+0.22
January 1, 1947.....	141,915,000	-	-	140,997,000	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Excludes armed forces overseas.