DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE WASHINGTON, D. C., METROPOLITAN AREA: 1940 TO 1948

More than 1,400,000 people were living in the Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Area on July 1, 1948, according to estimates released today by Philip M. Hauser, Acting Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Area comprises the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in Maryland, and Arlington and Fairfax[1] Counties and the city of Alexandria, Virginia. The District of Columbia, with a 1948 population of about 863,000, contained approximately 62 percent of the inhabitants of the metropolitan area. On April 1, 1940, the date of the last census, residents of the District of Columbia constituted about 69 percent of the population of the entire area.

The Seventeenth Decennial Census which will be conducted in April, 1950, will provide similar figures based on a complete count of the population; the estimates given here are based on figures from the last census, records of births and deaths, and a variety of other types of data indicative of population change. The total population of the metropolitan area increased steadily from 967,985 on April 1, 1940, to 1,386,000 on July 1, 1944. Largely because of a decline in the number of persons in the armed forces stationed in the area, the population declined by about 3 percent between July 1, 1944, and July 1, 1946. After July 1, 1946, however, the population again began to increase, although at a rate lower than that between 1940 and 1944, to reach a high point of about 1,402,000 on July 1, 1948. The civilian population of the metropolitan area, however, increased steadily throughout the entire period, although in some years the increase was relatively small.

Between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1948, the District of Columbia had an increase in population of about 200,000, or 30 percent. During the same period the suburban parts of the metropolitan area had an even larger growth, about 234,000, or 77 percent of the number of inhabitants in 1940.

The leader in this suburban population growth was Arlington County, Virginia, which gained about 64,000 civilians and more than doubled its civilian population in 8 years.[2] Fairfax County, Virginia, also benefited from the suburbanward movement of the population, with an increase in civilian population of about 92 percent. The city of Alexandria, Virginia, is also now far more populous, having had a civilian population increase of about 24,000, or 74 percent, during the period. The Maryland counties in the metropolitan district, Montgomery and Prince Georges, also had substantial civilian population increases, but their rates of increase were appreciably lower than those for the Virginia counties. Prince Georges County had an increase of about 50,000, or 56 percent, and Montgomery County, an increase of about 44,000, or 53 percent. The distribution of the armed forces by residence among the individual metropolitan counties is not available.

The estimates of the civilian population of Washington, D.C., presented in this release were based on information on the distribution of dwelling units by number of occupants from the 1940 Census of Population and Housing and the 1946 Veterans' Housing Survey, supplemented with statistics of births, deaths, military personnel, resident listings in the city directory, and domestic consumers of gas and electricity. The estimates of the civilian population of the outlying counties were based on the 1940 census, statistics of births and deaths since 1940, statistics of enrollment in the elementary grades of public and parochial schools, and war ration book registration data. The estimates of total population were obtained by adding the estimated number of

[1] Includes the city of Falls Church which was incorporated as a second-class city on August 16, 1948.

[2] According to a special census taken as of February 24, 1948, the total population of Arlington County (including those residents in the armed forces) was 123,832. See: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, "Special Census of Arlington County, Virginia: February 24, 1948," Series P-28, No. 298, April, 1948.

members of the armed forces stationed in the area to the estimates of civilian population.

The estimates for Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, Maryland, and for Arlington County and Alexandria city, Virginia, for dates between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1946, are revisions of estimates presented in an earlier release, Population--Special Reports, Series P-47, No. 5. The estimates for Fairfax County, Virginia, are presented in this report for the first time.

All estimates have been rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals which have been independently rounded. Derived figures are based on the unrounded estimates.

Table 1.--ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE WASHINGTON, D. C., METROPOLITAN AREA: 1940 TO 1948

(Estimates of the total population include armed forces stationed in the area. 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	Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Area		Washington, D. C.		Remainder of the area[1]	
	Estimated population	Percent of increase since April 1, 1940	Estimated population	Percent of increase since April 1, 1940	Estimated population	Percent of increase since April 1, 1940
July 1, 1948	1,402,000	44.9	863,000	30.1	539,000	76.8
July 1, 1947	1,371,000	41.7	861,000	29.8	511,000	67.5
July 1, 1946	1,359,000	40.4	843,000	27.2	516,000	69.1
July 1, 1945	1,372,000	41.7	880,000	32.7	492,000	61.2
July 1, 1944	1,386,000	43.2	894,000	34.9	492,000	61.4
July 1, 1943	1,346,000	39.1	883,000	33.2	463,000	52.0
July 1, 1942	1,236,000	27.6	824,000	24.3	412,000	35.0
July 1, 1941	1,129,000	16.6	764,000	15.1	365,000	19.8
July 1, 1940	995,000	2.8	679,000	2.4	316,000	3.7
April 1, 1940 (census)	967,985	-	663,091	-	304,894	-

[1] Comprises Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, Maryland, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties and Alexandria city, Virginia.

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE WASHINGTON, D. C., METROPOLITAN AREA: 1940 TO 1948

(Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded)

Date	Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Area	Washington, D. C.	Remainder of the area					
			Total	Arlington County, Virginia	Fairfax County, Virginia	Alexandria city, Virginia	Montgomery County, Maryland	Prince Georges County, Maryland
				64	35	24	48	50
July 1, 1948	1,354,000	837,000	517,000	119,000	73,000	58,000	128,000	139,000
July 1, 1947	1,321,000	831,000	490,000	110,000	67,000	59,000	121,000	133,000
July 1, 1946	1,294,000	815,000	479,000	109,000	63,000	60,000	115,000	131,000
July 1, 1945	1,267,000	824,000	443,000	99,000	58,000	55,000	109,000	122,000
July 1, 1944	1,257,000	830,000	427,000	93,000	54,000	53,000	107,000	119,000
July 1, 1943	1,222,000	821,000	400,000	82,000	52,000	50,000	102,000	115,000
July 1, 1942	1,177,000	799,000	377,000	74,000	50,000	46,000	99,000	108,000
July 1, 1941	1,097,000	754,000	343,000	67,000	45,000	40,000	93,000	99,000
July 1, 1940	986,000	674,000	312,000	59,000	42,000	35,000	86,000	91,000
April 1, 1940	957,754	658,018	299,736	55,012	38,122	33,523	83,912	89,167
PERCENT OF INCREASE SINCE APRIL 1, 1940								
July 1, 1948	41.4	27.2	72.5	115.5	91.9	74.0	53.1	55.5
July 1, 1947	37.9	26.3	63.6	100.5	75.4	75.3	44.1	49.6
July 1, 1946	35.1	23.9	59.8	98.2	65.4	79.7	37.3	47.3
July 1, 1945	32.3	25.2	47.8	80.6	52.0	63.1	29.7	37.0
July 1, 1944	31.2	26.2	42.4	69.8	42.4	57.4	27.6	33.7
July 1, 1943	27.6	24.8	33.6	48.3	36.0	48.6	22.1	28.6
July 1, 1942	22.8	21.5	25.8	34.7	30.1	38.1	18.2	21.0
July 1, 1941	14.6	14.6	14.6	22.1	17.1	20.6	10.3	10.5
July 1, 1940	2.9	2.5	3.9	7.3	9.2	3.0	2.0	1.8
April 1, 1940	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-