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ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1948

The population of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, and the Virgin Islands of the United States increased by more than 400,000 between April 1, 1940, the date of the last census, and July 1, 1948, according to estimates of population for these places released today by Philip M. Hauser, Acting Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Although each of these areas had an increase in population, large gains occurred only in Puerto Rico (about 300,000), and Hawaii (about 100,000).

The Seventeenth Census of the United States, which will be conducted in April, 1950, will provide statistics from a complete count of the population of the Territories and Possessions; 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, strength and geographic distribution of the armed forces, and other records indicating population change.

Territory of Hawaii.--On July 1, 1948, the total population of the Territory of Hawaii (that is, the civilian population plus the armed forces stationed in the area) was about 533,000. This figure represents an increase of 109,000, or 26 percent, over the 423,330 persons enumerated as of April 1, 1940. Approximately 72,000, or 66 percent, of this gain resulted from the excess of births over deaths; an estimated 34,000, or 32 percent, was due to net civilian immigration; and the remainder, about 2 percent, is attributable to net change in the number of persons in the armed forces stationed in the Territory.

Although natural increase, the excess of births over deaths, accounted for only two-thirds of the total increase in population between 1940

and 1948 in Hawaii, as compared with 96 percent for continental United States, the rate of natural increase was higher during this period in Hawaii than in continental United States. This difference was primarily the result of an extremely low crude death rate in Hawaii, the crude birth rate being generally lower than that for continental United States.¹ The crude death rate was less than two-thirds as large as that

¹ In Hawaii during this period the crude death rate ranged between 7 and 4 deaths per 1,000 population except in 1941, whereas in continental United States the crude death rate was either 10 or 11 per 1,000 population for each year, 1940 to 1947. During the same period, the crude birth rate ranged between 15 and 27 per 1,000 population for Hawaii, and between 18 and 26 for continental United States.

All vital rates cited in this report, unless otherwise specified, have been computed on the basis of registered births and deaths as reported by the National Office of Vital Statistics and estimates of the total population of the area. Birth and death rates based on the total population of an area give an indication of the importance of the birth and death components in population change, but do not reflect very satisfactorily the comparative level of fertility and mortality in areas where, for a short period of time, the population includes a relatively large number of temporary residents, such as armed forces in wartime. For such areas a more meaningful appraisal of the comparative level of fertility and mortality can be obtained from rates based on the civilian population. Of the areas for which vital rates are presented in this report, Hawaii is the only one that has been importantly affected by rapid fluctuations in the size of the total population.

The birth rate for Hawaii, computed on the basis of the civilian population, was consistently higher than the corresponding rate for continental United States. In 1940, the birth rate was 24 per 1,000 civilians in Hawaii and 18 in continental United States; in 1947, the birth rate was 29 per 1,000 civilians in Hawaii and 26 in continental United States. The crude death rate for the total population was somewhat lower than the crude death rate for the civilian population (partially based on local reports), which ranged from 8 to 6 per thousand. This difference in level is attributable to the relative youth of personnel of the armed forces, who, as a group, were almost entirely in age ranges where mortality rates are normally very low.

for continental United States for all years since 1940 except 1941, when the number of deaths was abnormally large as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The relative contribution of net in-migration to total population growth between 1940 and 1948 was greater for Hawaii (32 percent of total growth) than it was for continental United States (9 percent). In spite of the greater expense and difficulty of traveling to and from Hawaii as compared with traveling between States, the net change in population resulting from civilian immigration exceeded that resulting from net migration in each of 10 States, 3 of which gained and 7 of which lost population.²

During the war period, the armed forces stationed in the area constituted a relatively large proportion of the total population and changes in the size of the armed forces have been a major factor in changes in the size of the total population. In 1944 and 1945, the total population exceeded 800,000. As a result of the rapid reduction in the number of the armed forces stationed in the Territory, a substantial decline in the total population took place after the close of the war. A net out-migration of civilians after July 1, 1946, particularly in the 12 months preceding July 1, 1948, also contributed to this decrease.

Despite enlistments and inductions into the armed forces, the civilian population increased steadily during the war years because of a substantial net in-migration of civilian war workers. The civilian population continued to grow in the immediate postwar years, reaching 509,000 on July 1, 1947, but decreased slightly in the 12-month period which followed. This decrease was caused largely by the net out-migration of civilians already noted.

Puerto Rico.--Puerto Rico, the most populous of the Territories and Possessions of the United States, had a total population of 2,185,000 on July 1, 1948. This figure represents an increase of 316,000, or 17 percent, over the 1,869,255 persons enumerated in April, 1940. Despite a continuous net out-migration of civilians, and substantial inductions and enlistments into the armed forces, there was a steady increase in both the total and civilian population between 1940 and 1948, the impact of these factors being more than offset by the effects of the very high rate of natural increase. The rate of natural increase rose from 20 per 1,000 population in

² See Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 26.

1940 to 30 per 1,000 population in 1947. During this period the crude birth rate rose from 39 to 43, and the crude death rate dropped from 18 to 12.³

If there had been no loss through net out-migration of civilians, the total population of Puerto Rico would have increased by about 431,000, or 23 percent, between 1940 and 1948, rather than by only 316,000, or 17 percent. Out-migration appears to have become an increasingly important factor in retarding the population growth of Puerto Rico. Between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1945, there was a net loss of about 26,000 civilians through migration; in the following three years there was a loss of 88,000. The fact that there was relatively little out-migration for years prior to 1940, when travel was unrestricted, suggests that the relaxation of wartime restrictions on travel does not fully account for the recent increase in the volume of out-migration.

Panama Canal Zone.--Between April, 1940, and July, 1948, the civilian population of the Panama Canal Zone increased by almost 18,000, or 64 percent. On April 1, 1940, there were 27,800 civilians in the Canal Zone; on July 1, 1948, it is estimated that there were about 45,600. Inasmuch as the size of the civilian population of this area is importantly affected by the number of employees required by the Canal and the Panama Railroad, the population has shifted rapidly since 1940. By July 1, 1943, the civilian population had risen to 57,000; it then fell by more than 10,000 to reach a level of about 45,900 on July 1, 1944. Since that time it has been relatively stable.

Virgin Islands of the United States.--The total population of the Virgin Islands of the United States on July 1, 1948, is estimated at 27,000, or 9 percent larger than the population of 24,889 enumerated on April 1, 1940. The rate of growth between 1940 and 1948 was substantially lower than that in the other areas included in this report but approximated that for continental United States in the same period. During the period, the crude birth rate ranged between 31 and 39 births per 1,000 population, being considerably higher than the rate for continental United States. The crude death rate was also considerably higher, although it declined by more than one-fourth, from 22 to 15. Civilian net out-migration during the years since the

³ Puerto Rico was admitted to the birth registration area in 1943. Birth statistics for 1940 to 1942 were obtained from local reports.

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last census amounted to less than 2,000; nevertheless, it was of greater relative importance for the Virgin Islands than for Puerto Rico. The rate of net out-migration for the 8½-year period was 57 per 1,000 population for the Virgin Islands and 45 per 1,000 for Puerto Rico.⁴

METHODS

Two kinds of estimates are presented for Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands in the accompanying table:

(1) The total population, i.e., the civilian population plus armed forces stationed in the area; and

(2) The civilian population.

The estimates for the Panama Canal Zone relate to the civilian population only.

Estimates of the civilian population of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are based on statistics from the last decennial census, taken on April 1, 1940, and on statistics of births, deaths, immigration, emigration, and net loss of civilian population to the armed forces, for the period since the census. The vital statistics were obtained largely from the National Office of Vital Statistics, U. S. Public Health Service, and the migration statistics were obtained largely from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice. Because the reported death statistics include the deaths of members of the armed forces stationed in the area, an estimate of such deaths was subtracted from the reported death statistics to obtain an estimate of deaths of civilians only. Data on the size and distribution of the armed forces were provided by the National Military Establishment.

The estimates for the Territory of Hawaii shown in this release take into account, in addition to the types of data described above, the results of a registration of the civilian population conducted by the Office of Civilian Defense in the period January to June, 1942, and statistics on movements of civilians in military vessels during the war years. The latter are not included in the official immigration figures compiled by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Because complete information on departures from the Territory in Navy vessels was not available and because overcounting may have occurred in the registration as a result of the

⁴ Rates are computed on the basis of the civilian population on April 1, 1940, plus total births between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1948.

length of the period over which it extended, the estimates for Hawaii should be regarded as relatively rough approximations.

The estimates of the population of the Panama Canal Zone, for most of the years shown in the accompanying table, are based on a house-to-house canvass of the resident civilian population made by the police force of the Canal Zone and on statistics of immigration and emigration. The canvass included civilian employees of the National Military Establishment and members of the families of armed forces personnel. For the more recent years the house-to-house canvass covered only a portion of the civilian population and was supplemented by information regarding the remainder of the civilian population furnished by the National Military Establishment.

Despite the heavy demand for current post-censal estimates of the population of the Territory of Alaska, estimates for this area are not presented in this release. It has not been possible to prepare a reliable estimate of the population of Alaska for any date since the last census by methods comparable with those used for the other areas shown herein. Data on the extent of immigration and emigration for Alaska since the last census are lacking. It appears desirable, therefore, not to publish estimates for this area until accurate information on population changes becomes available. It is now apparent that the postcensal estimates published earlier were based on inadequate data. According to the latest census, taken as of October 1, 1939, the population of Alaska was 72,524.

The estimates of the population of the Panama Canal Zone presented in this report for July 1 of each year, 1940 to 1947, supersede those published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 11. They are based on more complete information as to population changes during these years than was available when that report was prepared. The estimates given here for Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for July 1, 1947, supersede those for the same date given in the above-mentioned report. The estimates for 1948 are provisional and subject to revision.

The estimates for Hawaii and Puerto Rico presented in the accompanying table have been rounded to the nearest thousand, and the estimates for the Panama Canal Zone and the Virgin Islands have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Derived figures are based on the unrounded absolute numbers and may, therefore, differ slightly from values computed from the rounded numbers given in the table.

ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII, AND OF PUERTO RICO, THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE,
AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1948

(Estimates of total population include the civilian population and the armed forces stationed in the area. Estimates for Hawaii and Puerto Rico are rounded to the nearest thousand, and estimates for the Panama Canal Zone and the Virgin Islands are rounded to the nearest hundred. Derived figures are based on the unrounded absolute numbers)

Area and date	Total population			Civilian population		
	Number	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since April 1, 1940		Number	Increase (+) or decrease (-) since April 1, 1940	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
HAWAII						
July 1, 1948.....	533,000	+109,000	+25.8	503,000	+106,000	+26.7
July 1, 1947.....	545,000	+121,000	+28.7	509,000	+113,000	+28.4
July 1, 1946.....	551,000	+127,000	+30.1	492,000	+96,000	+24.1
July 1, 1945.....	812,000	+389,000	+91.8	483,000	+86,000	+21.7
July 1, 1944.....	850,000	+427,000	+100.9	461,000	+64,000	+16.2
July 1, 1943.....	637,000	+213,000	+50.4	449,000	+53,000	+13.3
July 1, 1942.....	574,000	+151,000	+35.6	443,000	+46,000	+11.6
July 1, 1941.....	463,000	+40,000	+9.4	418,000	+21,000	+5.2
July 1, 1940.....	428,000	+4,000	+1.0	399,000	+3,000	+0.7
April 1, 1940 (census).....	423,330	-	-	397,000	-	-
PUERTO RICO						
July 1, 1948.....	2,185,000	+316,000	+16.9	2,176,000	+311,000	+16.6
July 1, 1947.....	2,149,000	+280,000	+15.0	2,141,000	+275,000	+14.8
July 1, 1946.....	2,100,000	+230,000	+12.3	2,084,000	+213,000	+11.7
July 1, 1945.....	2,070,000	+200,000	+10.7	2,040,000	+174,000	+9.3
July 1, 1944.....	2,037,000	+167,000	+8.9	2,010,000	+144,000	+7.7
July 1, 1943.....	2,012,000	+143,000	+7.7	1,976,000	+110,000	+5.9
July 1, 1942.....	1,973,000	+104,000	+5.6	1,939,000	+73,000	+3.9
July 1, 1941.....	1,926,000	+57,000	+3.0	1,904,000	+33,000	+2.0
July 1, 1940.....	1,879,000	+9,000	+0.5	1,875,000	+3,000	+0.5
April 1, 1940 (census).....	1,869,255	-	-	1,866,000	-	-
PANAMA CANAL ZONE						
July 1, 1948.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	45,600	+17,800	+64.2
July 1, 1947.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	46,300	+13,500	+66.8
July 1, 1946.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	47,700	+19,900	+71.8
July 1, 1945.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	45,900	+13,200	+65.4
July 1, 1944.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	45,900	+13,200	+65.5
July 1, 1943.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	57,000	+29,300	+105.4
July 1, 1942.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	55,800	+23,100	+101.2
July 1, 1941.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	43,000	+15,200	+54.8
July 1, 1940.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	29,700	+1,900	+6.9
April 1, 1940 (census).....	51,827	-	-	27,800	-	-
VIRGIN ISLANDS						
July 1, 1948.....	27,000	+2,100	+8.5	27,000	+2,200	+9.1
July 1, 1947.....	27,200	+2,300	+9.1	27,100	+2,300	+9.5
July 1, 1946.....	27,000	+2,100	+8.6	26,900	+2,200	+8.8
July 1, 1945.....	26,700	+1,800	+7.3	26,200	+1,500	+6.0
July 1, 1944.....	27,000	+2,100	+8.6	26,100	+1,400	+5.7
July 1, 1943.....	27,400	+2,500	+10.1	24,900	+100	+0.5
July 1, 1942.....	26,300	+1,400	+5.7	25,000	+300	+1.2
July 1, 1941.....	25,500	+600	+2.5	25,200	+400	+1.7
July 1, 1940.....	24,700	-200	-0.6	24,600	-200	-0.7
April 1, 1940 (census).....	24,889	-	-	24,700	-	-

¹ Not available.

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