

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION ESTIMATES

FOR FUTURE RELEASE

March 20, 1950

Washington 25, D. C.

Series P-25, No. 37

ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION 65 YEARS OLD AND OVER, FOR CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1940 TO 1949, AND FOR STATES, JULY 1, 1948

Estimates of the male and female population 65 years old and over for continental United States on July 1 of each year, 1940 to 1949, and estimates of the population 65 years old and over for States on July 1, 1948, were released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The Seventeenth Census of the United States, which will be conducted in April, 1950, will provide statistics for the United States and its geographic subdivisions similar to those shown in this report, based on a complete count of the population; the rough estimates presented here are based on figures from the last census brought up to date by use of official records of deaths, immigration, and emigration, and by use of estimates of net internal migration that are based on assumptions described below.

The rapid increase in the number of the aged in recent decades has resulted in widespread interest in the problems of that group. The estimates of the aged population shown in this report were prepared in response to requests from government agencies, insurance companies, tax research groups, and other private organizations and individuals. The figures are particularly useful as bases of recipient rates for old-age assistance and beneficiary rates for old-age and survivor's insurance.

In the total population residing in continental United States of about 148,720,000 on July 1, 1949, there were an estimated 11,270,000 persons 65 years old and over. (See table 1.) In April, 1940, when the last decennial census was taken, only 8,964,000 persons were reported as 65 years old and over. Although the total population residing in the United States increased by about 13 percent during this period, the rate of increase in the aged population amounted to about 26 percent. The increase in the number of aged females made up about 60 percent of the total increase of 2½ million persons in the aged

population. As a result, the number of males per 100 females among the aged dropped from 95.5 to 90.2 in this period. The growth of the aged between 1940 and 1949, although large, was not unusual in the light of past changes in this age group, however. Large increases in this group have been occurring for many decades; and the increases have, in general, been growing. The average annual intercensal increases since 1910 are as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1910 to 1920.....	101,000	51,000	50,000
1920 to 1930.....	166,000	82,000	84,000
1930 to 1940.....	239,000	108,000	130,000
1940 to 1949.....	249,000	105,000	145,000

The trend indicated toward a larger number of older persons may be credited to increases in the number of births in the 19th century, to lowered mortality rates resulting from better medical care and a higher standard of living, and to the generally increasing volume of immigration up to World War I.

There appears to have been more persons 65 years old and over on July 1, 1948, than on April 1, 1940, in each of the 48 States and the District of Columbia. (See table 2.) Five States (Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, California, and Washington) had gains of over 40 percent, 10 States and the District of Columbia had gains of between 20 and 40 percent, and 28 States had gains of between 10 and 20 percent. The 5 remaining States (New Hampshire, Maine, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Vermont) had less than a 10 percent gain in population 65 years old and over between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1948. The States with the most impressive increases were, with few exceptions, among those that are estimated to have gained heavily through internal migration since 1940. (See Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 26.)

METHOD OF ESTIMATION AND LIMITATIONS

The estimates presented in this report are based on age data from the 1940 census; statistics of deaths by age 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 the country provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and estimates of net interstate migration, developed in part from official records of school enrollment for each State. The estimates are not based on a sample survey. They were obtained by starting with the 1940 census data on the aged population and allowing for deaths and net international and interstate migration between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1948. The estimates of deaths in the group 65 years old and over on July 1, 1948, are based on final statistics of resident deaths by age for the United States and each State between 1940 and 1947 and provisional figures for 1948. By a slight final adjustment, the estimates of the population 65 years old and over for the States were brought into agreement with a national total for this group. The national total used in the report supersedes the figure published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 21.

The State estimates of net migration between 1940 and 1948 for the population 65 years old and over are based on the estimated State rates of net migration for the population of all ages. The latter rates had been developed in connection with the preparation of the estimates of the

total population of States presented in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 26, and are based on the migration rates of school-age children, which were developed largely from official records of school enrollment for each State. It was generally assumed in making the State estimates of the aged population shown in this report that the rate of net migration for the population 65 years old and over between 1940 and 1948 for a given State was one-half the rate for the population of all ages for the same State, which had, in general, been assumed to be the same as for the school-age population. Because these assumptions may not apply exactly, or even approximately, to each State, the State figures may vary considerably in accuracy, depending in large part on the validity of the assumptions for the State.

In view of the length of time since the last census and the inadequacy of information available for preparing these estimates, especially information regarding interstate migration, the figures given in this report for States and for the United States for more recent years may not be consistent with similar figures for April 1, 1950, to be obtained in the 1950 census. By and large, however, the figures now being published may be accepted as reflecting the general direction and approximate size of changes since 1940.

The estimates presented in this report 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 absolute numbers.

Table 1.--POPULATION 65 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, 1910 TO 1940, AND ESTIMATES, 1940 TO 1949

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

Date	Total	Male	Female	Males per 100 females
CENSUS				
April 15, 1910.....	3,949,524	1,985,976	1,963,548	101.1
January 1, 1920.....	4,933,215	2,483,071	2,450,144	101.3
April 1, 1930.....	6,633,805	3,325,211	3,308,594	100.5
April 1, 1940.....	9,019,314	4,406,120	4,613,194	95.5
ESTIMATE				
April 1, 1940 ¹	8,964,000	4,377,000	4,587,000	95.4
July 1, 1940.....	9,021,000	4,401,000	4,620,000	95.3
July 1, 1941.....	9,222,000	4,483,000	4,740,000	94.6
July 1, 1942.....	9,455,000	4,579,000	4,876,000	93.9
July 1, 1943.....	9,660,000	4,662,000	4,999,000	93.3
July 1, 1944.....	9,858,000	4,744,000	5,114,000	92.8
July 1, 1945.....	10,114,000	4,853,000	5,261,000	92.2
July 1, 1946.....	10,375,000	4,966,000	5,410,000	91.8
July 1, 1947 ²	10,655,000	5,085,000	5,571,000	91.3
July 1, 1948 ²	10,940,000	5,203,000	5,737,000	90.7
July 1, 1949.....	11,270,000	5,344,000	5,926,000	90.2

¹ Census figures adjusted for age biases in nonwhite population as enumerated.

² Supersedes figures published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 21.

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION 65 YEARS OLD AND OVER, FOR THE UNITED STATES, BY REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES: JULY 1, 1948

(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)

Region, division, and State	Population 65 years old and over		Increase (+) or decrease (-), 1940 to 1948		Region, division, and State	Population 65 years old and over		Increase (+) or decrease (-), 1940 to 1948	
	July 1, 1948	April 1, 1940 (census)	Number	Per-cent		July 1, 1948	April 1, 1940 (census)	Number	Per-cent
United States.....	10,940,000	19,019,314	+1,921,000	+21.3	WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
REGIONS:					Minnesota.....	247,000	212,618	+35,000	+16.4
Northeastern States..	3,066,000	2,593,994	+472,000	+18.2	Iowa.....	255,000	227,767	+27,000	+11.8
North Central States..	3,633,000	3,081,492	+552,000	+17.9	Missouri.....	363,000	325,745	+37,000	+11.5
The South.....	2,732,000	2,300,372	+431,000	+18.7	North Dakota.....	45,000	39,390	+5,000	+13.6
The West.....	1,509,000	1,043,456	+466,000	+44.7	South Dakota.....	50,000	44,440	+6,000	+13.0
					Nebraska.....	117,000	105,632	+11,000	+10.6
					Kansas.....	184,000	157,136	+27,000	+17.1
NORTHEASTERN STATES:					SOUTH ATLANTIC:				
New England.....	823,000	715,349	+108,000	+15.1	Delaware.....	23,000	20,566	+3,000	+13.7
Middle Atlantic.....	2,243,000	1,878,645	+364,000	+19.4	Maryland.....	147,000	123,516	+23,000	+18.7
NORTH CENTRAL STATES:					District of Columbia..	57,000	41,206	+16,000	+37.6
East North Central...	2,372,000	1,968,764	+404,000	+20.5	Virginia.....	182,000	154,944	+27,000	+17.6
West North Central...	1,261,000	1,112,728	+148,000	+13.3	West Virginia.....	115,000	100,974	+14,000	+13.5
THE SOUTH:					North Carolina.....	187,000	156,540	+30,000	+19.5
South Atlantic.....	1,166,000	968,991	+197,000	+20.3	South Carolina.....	94,000	81,314	+13,000	+15.9
East South Central...	678,000	612,689	+65,000	+10.6	Georgia.....	183,000	158,714	+25,000	+15.5
West South Central...	888,000	718,692	+169,000	+23.5	Florida.....	178,000	131,217	+47,000	+35.7
THE WEST:					EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
Mountain.....	316,000	251,161	+65,000	+25.8	Kentucky.....	199,000	189,284	+10,000	+5.1
Pacific.....	1,193,000	792,295	+401,000	+50.6	Tennessee.....	203,000	171,778	+31,000	+18.2
					Alabama.....	156,000	136,209	+20,000	+14.8
					Mississippi.....	119,000	115,418	+4,000	+3.4
NEW ENGLAND:					WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:				
Maine.....	86,000	80,325	+6,000	+7.6	Arkansas.....	133,000	107,260	+26,000	+23.9
New Hampshire.....	53,000	48,720	+5,000	+9.5	Louisiana.....	141,000	119,003	+22,000	+18.2
Vermont.....	35,000	34,492	+1,000	+1.8	Oklahoma.....	163,000	144,934	+18,000	+12.5
Massachusetts.....	425,000	368,974	+56,000	+15.3	Texas.....	451,000	347,495	+104,000	+29.8
Rhode Island.....	60,000	54,284	+6,000	+11.2	MOUNTAIN:				
Connecticut.....	163,000	128,554	+34,000	+26.4	Montana.....	42,000	36,257	+5,000	+15.1
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:					Idaho.....	42,000	31,700	+10,000	+31.3
New York.....	1,104,000	922,356	+181,000	+19.6	Wyoming.....	17,000	12,558	+5,000	+38.9
New Jersey.....	349,000	278,821	+70,000	+25.2	Colorado.....	101,000	86,438	+15,000	+17.0
Pennsylvania.....	790,000	677,468	+113,000	+16.6	New Mexico.....	27,000	23,284	+4,000	+17.4
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:					Arizona.....	37,000	23,909	+13,000	+53.4
Ohio.....	661,000	539,729	+122,000	+22.5	Utah.....	39,000	30,215	+8,000	+25.0
Indiana.....	345,000	288,036	+57,000	+19.7	Nevada.....	11,000	6,800	+4,000	+60.5
Illinois.....	662,000	567,963	+94,000	+16.6	PACIFIC:				
Michigan.....	423,000	330,854	+92,000	+27.9	Washington.....	209,000	144,320	+64,000	+44.6
Wisconsin.....	281,000	242,182	+39,000	+16.1	Oregon.....	143,000	92,728	+51,000	+54.6
					California.....	841,000	555,247	+286,000	+51.5

¹ A figure adjusted for biases in the reporting of age of nonwhite persons is 8,964,000.