

# CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

## POPULATION ESTIMATES

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### PROVISIONAL INTERCENSAL ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES 1940 TO 1950

(The intercensal estimates given in this report supersede the corresponding postcensal estimates given in earlier numbers of Current Population Reports, Series P-25, and in Population--Special Reports, Series P-46 and P-47. Comparable estimates for months since April 1950 appear in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 46)

Provisional intercensal estimates of the population of the United States for July 1, 1940 to 1949, and January 1, 1941 to 1950, and of the components of population change for the 1940-50 decade, taking into account the final 1950 Census population total, were released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. These estimates are revisions of the postcensal estimates for corresponding dates based on the 1940 Census published in earlier reports. These revisions differ only slightly from the figures published earlier inasmuch as the population count determined by the 1950 Census was approximately the same as the postcensal estimate for April 1, 1950.

Annual changes in the total population residing in continental United States (excluding United States armed forces overseas and civilian citizens abroad), for the 1940-50 decade, were quite irregular, largely because of the movements of military personnel to and from the United States as a result of World War II (table 1). Between July 1, 1943, and July 1, 1944, a period in which troops were transferred out of the country in large numbers, there was a net loss of 1,349,000, or 1 percent, in the population of continental United States. On the other hand, between July 1, 1945, and July 1, 1946, a period in which our troops were returning from overseas in large numbers, there was a net gain of 7,756,000, or 6 percent, in the population.

Births, deaths, and net civilian immigration showed much less annual variation during

the decade than did net military movement and total population change. Deaths remained almost constant at 1.4 million per year. Births showed greater variation, with a low of 2,622,000 between July 1, 1940, and July 1, 1941; a first peak of 3,174,000 between July 1, 1942, and July 1, 1943; and a second peak of 3,986,000 between July 1, 1946, and July 1, 1947. These highs reflected, respectively, the beginning of World War II and demobilization. The annual number of births has remained high, amounting to 3,699,000 for the period, July 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949, and to 3,703,000 for the succeeding 12-month period. The volume of net civilian immigration varied considerably from year to year but was relatively small throughout the decade. It ranged from a low of 37,000 per year near the early part of the decade to a high of 266,000 near the end of the decade.

For the whole period, April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950, the total change in the population residing in continental United States amounted to 19,028,086. Of this change, 18,029,000, or 95 percent, was due to natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and only 999,000, or 5 percent, was due to net immigration (including both civilian and military movements). Thus, the large annual changes in net immigration during the decade, resulting mostly from the movement of armed forces to and from the continent during the progress of World War II, tended to cancel out.

Annual changes during the 1940-50 decade in the total population including armed forces

overseas were also irregular but of considerably less amplitude than those in the total continental population (table 2). The year-to-year change during the decade ranged from 1,263,000, or 0.96 percent, for the period July 1, 1940, to July 1, 1941, to more than twice that, 2,731,000, or 1.93 percent, for the period July 1, 1946, to July 1, 1947. The annual population changes paralleled closely the annual fluctuations in the number of births, with a first peak in the early part of the war and a second peak immediately after the war.

The civilian population showed extreme variation in its annual changes. These changes ranged from a loss of 3,439,000, or 2.63 percent, in 1942-43 to a gain of 10,823,000, or 8.48 percent, in 1945-46. The pattern of annual changes in the civilian population resembled that in the total population resident in continental United States.

The estimates of population given in this report are based on the counts of the total population obtained in the 1940 and 1950 Population Censuses; statistics and estimates of births and deaths provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; statistics on the movement of civilian citizens and aliens to and from continental United States provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and data on the armed forces obtained from the Department of Defense.

The estimates of the total population residing in continental United States for each year given in table 1 were obtained by adding successively the excess of births over deaths and net immigration (civilian and military) for each year to the total population enumerated on April 1, 1940. In order to take the 1950 Census into account, the net civilian migration component for each year was adjusted so that the estimate for April 1, 1950, agreed with the 1950 Census count.

From these results, estimates of the total population including armed forces overseas and estimates of the civilian population were obtained, respectively, by adding an estimate of armed forces overseas or by subtracting an estimate of armed forces in continental United States. In earlier reports presenting the series designated as "total population including armed forces overseas," those persons in the armed forces overseas in 1940 and those persons who had entered military service after

April 1, 1940, from the Territories and possessions of the United States were excluded. In the present revision, however, all armed forces of the United States overseas are included. In addition, the distribution of the armed forces inside and outside continental United States for the later years of the decade, as determined from the official reports, has been adjusted to agree more closely with the allocation of armed forces strength as defined by the 1950 Census.<sup>1</sup> The effect of the redistribution is to reduce slightly the number assigned overseas and to increase slightly the number assigned to continental United States.

The birth and death figures used in preparing the population estimates shown in this report were adjusted for underregistration. According to a test conducted in connection with the 1940 Census, 92.5 percent of all births occurring in the four months preceding April 1, 1940, were registered. On the basis of the increase in the proportion of births occurring in hospitals, where birth registration is nearly complete, the percent completeness of birth registration is estimated to have increased to about 96.0 percent in 1950.<sup>2</sup> Similar estimates were prepared for each intervening year. The reported birth statistics were adjusted by these estimated proportions. No satisfactory test of the extent of the underregistration of deaths has been made, so that the extent of the underreporting of deaths is not known. In the preparation of the estimates given in this report, the adjustment of deaths was confined to deaths of children under one year, and it was assumed that infant deaths were underregistered in the same proportion as births in the corresponding year.

The figures on net immigration pertain to the total movement to and from continental United States. Thus, in addition to the reported movements of civilians (both aliens and citizens), the figures include the movements of

<sup>1</sup> The entire number of armed forces reported as "afloat" was classified in previous estimates of population as outside continental United States. Actually, part of this number was in ports of continental United States and should have been classified as residing within continental United States. Crews of vessels in United States ports at the time of the census were included in the official 1950 Census total.

<sup>2</sup> See: National Office of Vital Statistics, "Estimated Completeness of Birth Registration: United States, 1935 to 1944," Vital Statistics--Special Reports, Volume 23, No. 10, 1946. A similar birth registration test is being conducted in connection with the 1950 Census and will provide the basis for revised estimates of the percent completeness of registration of births for the 1940-50 decade.

armed forces to and from the continent as estimated from data on armed forces strength.<sup>3</sup> The reported figures on net civilian immigration were decreased by about 250,000 to achieve exact agreement between the population change for the decade as indicated by the two censuses and the population change as indicated by the estimate based on natural increase and net immigration. The adjustment was made in the civilian migration component because the reported data on civilian migration are believed to be the least adequate of the data on the components of population change.

<sup>3</sup> Civilian migration includes the movements of the following groups, in the terminology of the Immigration and Naturalization Service: (1) Immigrant aliens (nonresident aliens admitted to the United States for permanent residence); (2) emigrant aliens (resident aliens departing from a permanent residence in the United States for a permanent residence abroad); (3) nonimmigrant aliens (nonresident aliens admitted to the United States for a temporary period or resident aliens returning to an established residence in the United States after a temporary stay abroad); (4) nonemigrant aliens (nonresident aliens departing after a temporary stay in the United States or resident aliens departing for a temporary stay abroad); (5) citizens arriving; and (6) citizens departing. In addition, allowance was made for the entry and departure of Mexican contract laborers during the decade, since their movements were not included in the official nonimmigrant figures.

The difference between the census count for April 1, 1950, and the estimate for that date based on the 1940 Census and subsequent births, deaths, and unadjusted net immigration may have arisen from any one or a combination of the following factors: (1) Errors in the allowances for the underreporting of births and deaths; (2) errors in the reporting of immigration and emigration; (3) errors in the reports of military strength and distribution, and in the assumptions on which our estimates of military distribution are based; and (4) differences in the completeness of coverage of the 1940 and 1950 Censuses. The small size of the adjustment in the present instance may be the result of the cancellation of several large errors or may attest to the degree of accuracy with which records of population change are kept in the United States.

Estimates of the total population residing in continental United States, the total population including armed forces overseas, and the civilian population for July 1, 1940 to 1949, are supplied in tables 1 and 2. Similar estimates for January 1, 1941 to 1950, are given in table 3.

TABLE 1.--ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL POPULATION RESIDING IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1940 TO 1949, WITH COMPONENTS OF CHANGE  
(These estimates are comparable in definition with the population counts from the 1940 and 1950 Censuses. Each absolute estimate has been separately rounded to the nearest thousand from figures computed to the last digit; hence, the sums of parts shown may differ slightly from totals shown)

Date	Population	Change since preceding date							
		Net change	Natural change			Net immigration			
			Natural increase <sup>1</sup>	Births <sup>2</sup>	Deaths <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>3</sup>	Civilian	Military	
April 1, 1940 (census).....	131,669,275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July 1, 1940.....	131,936,000	267,000	276,000	622,000	345,000	-9,000	16,000	-25,000	
July 1, 1941.....	133,058,000	1,122,000	1,201,000	2,622,000	1,421,000	-80,000	53,000	-133,000	
July 1, 1942.....	133,752,000	694,000	1,410,000	2,789,000	1,379,000	-716,000	37,000	-754,000	
July 1, 1943.....	133,971,000	219,000	1,743,000	3,174,000	1,432,000	-1,523,000	131,000	-1,654,000	
July 1, 1944.....	132,622,000	-1,349,000	1,538,000	3,001,000	1,462,000	-2,888,000	167,000	-3,055,000	
July 1, 1945.....	132,137,000	-484,000	1,569,000	2,955,000	1,387,000	-2,053,000	219,000	-2,272,000	
July 1, 1946.....	139,893,000	7,756,000	1,474,000	2,898,000	1,424,000	6,282,000	66,000	6,216,000	
July 1, 1947.....	143,375,000	3,481,000	2,561,000	3,986,000	1,425,000	921,000	182,000	739,000	
July 1, 1948.....	146,045,000	2,671,000	2,246,000	3,701,000	1,454,000	424,000	237,000	187,000	
July 1, 1949.....	148,558,000	2,512,000	2,262,000	3,699,000	1,437,000	250,000	266,000	-16,000	
April 1, 1950 (census).....	150,697,361	2,140,000	1,749,000	2,848,000	1,100,000	391,000	237,000	154,000	
Total change, April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950.....	-	19,028,086	18,029,000	32,294,000	14,265,000	999,000	1,611,000	-614,000	

<sup>1</sup> Excess of births over deaths.

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted for underregistration.

<sup>3</sup> Includes movements to and from continental United States of civilian citizens and aliens, and of armed forces.

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES INCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS AND ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, JULY 1, 1940 TO 1949, WITH ESTIMATES OF CHANGE

(Each absolute estimate has been separately rounded to the nearest thousand from figures computed to the last digit; hence, slight discrepancies between the population estimates and the amounts of change may appear. Percents are based on the unrounded absolute numbers)

Date	Total population including armed forces overseas			Civilian population		
	Population	Change since preceding date		Population	Change since preceding date	
		Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent
April 1, 1940.....	<sup>1</sup> 131,820,000	-	-	<sup>2</sup> 131,391,000	-	-
July 1, 1940.....	132,114,000	294,000	0.22	131,642,000	250,000	0.19
July 1, 1941.....	133,377,000	1,263,000	0.96	131,556,000	-86,000	-0.07
July 1, 1942.....	134,831,000	1,454,000	1.09	130,854,000	-701,000	-0.53
July 1, 1943.....	136,719,000	1,888,000	1.40	127,415,000	-3,439,000	-2.63
July 1, 1944.....	138,390,000	1,670,000	1.22	126,606,000	-809,000	-0.63
July 1, 1945.....	139,934,000	1,543,000	1.12	127,571,000	965,000	0.76
July 1, 1946.....	141,398,000	1,464,000	1.05	138,394,000	10,823,000	8.48
July 1, 1947.....	144,129,000	2,731,000	1.93	142,595,000	4,201,000	3.04
July 1, 1948.....	146,621,000	2,492,000	1.73	145,171,000	2,576,000	1.81
July 1, 1949.....	149,149,000	2,528,000	1.72	147,512,000	2,341,000	1.61
April 1, 1950.....	<sup>1</sup> 151,132,000	1,983,000	1.33	<sup>2</sup> 149,634,000	2,122,000	1.44
Total change, April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950..	-	19,312,000	14.65	-	18,242,000	13.88

<sup>1</sup> Census figure plus an estimate of armed forces overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Census figure minus an estimate of armed forces in continental United States.

Table 3.--ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL POPULATION RESIDING IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, THE TOTAL POPULATION INCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATION: JANUARY 1, 1941 TO 1950

(Each estimate has been rounded to the nearest thousand from figures computed to the last digit)

Date	Total population residing in United States <sup>1</sup>	Total population including armed forces overseas	Civilian population
January 1, 1941.....	132,536,000	132,776,000	131,874,000
January 1, 1942.....	133,692,000	134,135,000	131,976,000
January 1, 1943.....	134,032,000	135,838,000	128,779,000
January 1, 1944.....	135,585,000	137,641,000	127,141,000
January 1, 1945.....	131,824,000	139,234,000	127,198,000
January 1, 1946.....	136,923,000	140,666,000	133,842,000
January 1, 1947.....	141,886,000	142,828,000	140,968,000
January 1, 1948.....	144,868,000	145,468,000	144,058,000
January 1, 1949.....	147,370,000	147,975,000	146,330,000
January 1, 1950.....	150,039,000	150,563,000	148,991,000

<sup>1</sup> These figures include armed forces in continental United States and exclude armed forces overseas. They are comparable in definition with the Censuses of 1940 and 1950.