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ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATIONS OF ALASKA, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1950

(The population estimates given in this report supersede the corresponding estimates published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 11 and 29)

Provisional estimates of the populations of the Territories and the major possessions of the United States for each July 1, 1940 to 1950, taking into account the final totals from the 1950 Census of Population, were released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The estimates in this report are revisions of estimates based on the 1940 Census published in earlier reports.

The course of population change in the 1940-50 decade differed markedly among the several Territories and possessions. Alaska showed the greatest percent change in total population with an increase of 56,000, or 77 percent, for the decade. (See table below.) Hawaii and Puerto Rico had larger numerical gains in total population, 76,000 and 341,000, respectively; but in each case the gains represented only an 18 percent increase over the 1940 Census counts. The Virgin Islands of the United States showed an increase of only 1,800, or 7 percent, for the decade.

With respect to change in the civilian populations for the decade, the relative positions of the Territories and possessions were about the same as they were for changes in total population. The percentage increases in the civilian populations were as follows: Alaska, 51; Hawaii, 21; Puerto Rico, 18; and the Virgin Islands, 8. The increase in the civilian population for Alaska represented largely a heavy net migration of civilians, whereas the gains for the other areas were due entirely to the excess of births over deaths.

Year-to-year fluctuations during the decade in the civilian and total populations of the Territories and possessions were moderate and regular except for the yearly changes in the total populations of Alaska and Hawaii. (See table below.) In 1943 Alaska reached a peak total population of 226,000, which represented a 66-percent increase over the preceding year and three times the population in 1939. A decline of 21 percent followed in 1944. Hawaii reached its peak total population in 1944 with an estimated 844,000—a 34-percent increase over the preceding year and twice the population in 1940. In 1946 there was a decline of 35 percent. These sharp fluctuations in the total populations of Alaska and Hawaii were due to the movements of large numbers of armed forces to and from the areas during the war years and the immediate postwar years.

The estimates of population given in this report are based on the counts of the total population obtained in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Decennial Censuses of Population conducted by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce; 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 the Territories and possessions provided by the Immigration and

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Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and data on the armed forces obtained from the Department of Defense.[1] In the preparation of population estimates, the reported figures on births and deaths were corrected for underregistration.[2] In addition, the reported figures on armed forces station strength were adjusted to include estimates of crews of naval vessels in port who would be classified as residents of the port in a census of the area. Also, the reported figures on the movement of civilians were supplemented by some fragmentary data on the transfer of civilians by means of armed services transports (not reported to the Immigration and Naturalization Service).

The estimates of the total population of an area for each July 1, as given in the table below, were obtained by adding cumulatively the annual excess of births over deaths and the annual net civilian and military migration to the total population enumerated in the Sixteenth Census. In order to take the Seventeeth Census into account, the net civilian migration component for each year was adjusted in such a manner that the estimate of total population for April 1, 1950, agreed with the 1950 Census count.[3] From these results, estimates of t' civilian population were obtained by subtrac ing estimates of armed forces stationed in the area.

The component of net military migration was estimated by subtracting from the difference in station strength of armed forces at the beginning and at the end of a period the difference in the number of residents of the area serving in the armed forces at the beginning and at the end of the period. The result was adjusted for deaths. This procedure involves the assumption that all personnel were discharged from the armed services at the place of induction.[4]

The estimates in this report are based at several points on incomplete information, especially with respect to net civilian migration, and hence may be subject to considerable error. However, the possibility that much more complete data will become available is slight. Therefore, future revisions may not differ greatly from the estimates given in this report. It should be kept in mind that no attempt was made in the preparation of these estimates to take account of the appreciable number of short-term tourists and seasonal workers who enter a leave some of the Territories and possessions.

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[1] For Puerto Rico, births in the years 1940 through 1942 were obtained from reports of the Department of Health of Puerto Rico. Births and deaths for Alaska in the years 1940 through 1945 were obtained from the reports of the Auditor of the Territory of Alaska. Estimates of net civilian migration for Alaska were made from data on school enrollment provided by the Commissioner of Education for the Territory of Alaska. Procedures for estimating net civilian migration from school enrollment data are explained and illustrated in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 20.

[2] Procedures for making adjustments for underregistration of births are described in the report, Estimated Completeness of Birth Registration, United States, 1935 to 1944, published by the National Office of Vital Statistics. With respect to the adjustment of deaths for underregistration, all deaths at ages one year and over were assumed to be registered whereas reported deaths under one year of age were assumed to be underregistered to the same degree as births.

[3] The selection of net civilian migration as the component to be adjusted in order to take account of the 1950 Census was determined by the fact that net civilian migration appeared to be the least adequately reported of the several components of population change, especially in view of evidence of a somewhat substantial movement of civilians by means of armed services transports.

[4] A slight modification of this assumption was employed in preparing the estimates of net military migration for Puerto Rico.

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ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL POPULATIONS AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATIONS OF ALASKA, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1950

(Each estimate has been independently rounded to the nearest thousand (nearest hundred for the Virgin Islands) from figures computed to the last digit; hence, the sums of parts shown may differ slightly from the totals shown. Percentages are based on the unrounded numbers)

Area and date	Total population[1]			Civilian population		
	Population	Change since preceding date		Population	Change since preceding date	
		Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent
ALASKA:						
October 1, 1939[2]	[3]72,524	...	...	[4]72,000	...	...
July 1, 1940	74,000	+2,000	+2.5	73,000	+1,000	+1.2
July 1, 1941	83,000	+8,000	+11.3	74,000	+2,000	+2.2
July 1, 1942	137,000	+54,000	+65.2	77,000	+3,000	+3.8
July 1, 1943	226,000	+90,000	+65.6	74,000	-3,000	-3.9
July 1, 1944	180,000	-46,000	-20.5	76,000	+2,000	+2.5
July 1, 1945	138,000	-42,000	-23.6	78,000	+2,000	+2.8
July 1, 1946	103,000	-34,000	-24.8	85,000	+7,000	+8.7
July 1, 1947	117,000	+13,000	+12.6	91,000	+6,000	+7.5
July 1, 1948	125,000	+8,000	+7.1	98,000	+6,000	+7.1
July 1, 1949	134,000	+9,000	+7.1	104,000	+6,000	+6.4
April 1, 1950	[3]128,643	-5,000	-3.8	[3]108,236	+4,000	+4.1
July 1, 1950	136,000	+7,000	+5.6	110,000	+2,000	+1.5
Total change, October 1, 1939, to April 1, 1950	...	+56,119	+77.4	...	+36,000	+50.6
HAWAII:						
April 1, 1940	[3]423,330	...	...	[4]395,000	...	...
July 1, 1940	428,000	+5,000	+1.1	398,000	+3,000	+0.7
July 1, 1941	459,000	+32,000	+7.4	411,000	+13,000	+3.4
July 1, 1942	556,000	+97,000	+21.0	420,000	+9,000	+2.2
July 1, 1943	629,000	+73,000	+13.1	429,000	+9,000	+2.2
July 1, 1944	844,000	+215,000	+34.2	437,000	+8,000	+1.9
July 1, 1945	815,000	-29,000	-3.5	460,000	+23,000	+5.2
July 1, 1946	533,000	-282,000	-34.7	467,000	+7,000	+1.4
July 1, 1947	528,000	-5,000	-0.9	489,000	+22,000	+4.8
July 1, 1948	517,000	-11,000	-2.2	484,000	-6,000	-1.1
July 1, 1949	510,000	-7,000	-1.3	479,000	-5,000	-1.0
April 1, 1950	[3]499,794	-10,000	-2.0	[4]476,000	-3,000	-0.6
July 1, 1950	497,000	-3,000	-0.6	474,000	-2,000	-0.4
Total change, April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950	...	+76,464	+18.1	...	+81,000	+20.5
PUERTO RICO:						
April 1, 1940	[3]1,869,255	...	...	[4]1,866,000	...	...
July 1, 1940	1,878,000	+9,000	+0.5	1,875,000	+9,000	+0.5
July 1, 1941	1,927,000	+48,000	+2.6	1,904,000	+29,000	+1.6
July 1, 1942	1,973,000	+46,000	+2.4	1,939,000	+35,000	+1.8
July 1, 1943	2,013,000	+40,000	+2.0	1,975,000	+37,000	+1.9
July 1, 1944	2,038,000	+25,000	+1.2	2,010,000	+35,000	+1.7
July 1, 1945	2,071,000	+34,000	+1.7	2,040,000	+31,000	+1.5
July 1, 1946	2,098,000	+26,000	+1.3	2,082,000	+41,000	+2.0
July 1, 1947	2,140,000	+42,000	+2.0	2,131,000	+50,000	+2.4
July 1, 1948	2,172,000	+33,000	+1.5	2,163,000	+32,000	+1.5
July 1, 1949	2,193,000	+21,000	+1.0	2,184,000	+21,000	+1.0
April 1, 1950	[3]2,210,703	+18,000	+0.8	[4]2,203,000	+19,000	+0.9
July 1, 1950	2,216,000	+5,000	+0.2	2,210,000	+7,000	+0.3
Total change, April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950	...	+341,448	+18.3	...	+337,000	+18.1
VIRGIN ISLANDS:						
April 1, 1940	[3]24,889	...	...	[4]24,700	...	...
July 1, 1940	25,000	+100	+0.5	24,900	+100	+0.5
July 1, 1941	25,800	+800	+3.1	25,400	+600	+2.3
July 1, 1942	26,100	+300	+1.2	24,800	-600	-2.3
July 1, 1943	27,400	+1,300	+5.1	24,900	+100	+0.3
July 1, 1944	27,100	-400	-1.3	26,200	+1,300	+5.1
July 1, 1945	26,700	-300	-1.2	26,300	+100	+0.3
July 1, 1946	27,100	+300	+1.2	27,000	+700	+2.7
July 1, 1947	27,200	+100	+0.5	27,100	+200	+0.6
July 1, 1948	26,900	-300	-0.9	26,900	-200	-0.7
July 1, 1949	26,700	-200	-0.8	26,700	-200	-0.8
April 1, 1950	[3]26,665	-100	-0.3	[4]26,700	-100	-0.3
July 1, 1950	26,600	-100	-0.4	26,500	-100	-0.4
Total change, April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950	...	+1,776	+7.1	...	+1,900	+7.8

[1] Includes armed forces stationed in area.
[2] Date of the Sixteenth Census of the United States in Alaska.
[3] Census count.
[4] Census count of total population minus estimate of armed forces stationed in area.