U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Sinclair Weeks, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Robert W. Burgess, *Director*

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CONSUMER INCOME

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INCOME OF PERSONS AT NEW PEAK IN 1952

(Advance data, April 1953 sample survey)

The average person's income continued upward in 1952, although the gain was not so great as in the previous year. For all persons 14 years old and over receiving any money income, the average (median) income was estimated at $2,300 in 1952, about $100, or 5 percent, above the 1951 average, according to estimates released today by Robert W. Burgess, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Between 1950 and 1951 a gain of about $200 had been recorded.

The average income of men, which has been rising steadily since the end of World War II, increased by about $150 to $3,100 during the past year. The proportion whose incomes were $5,000 or over rose from 14 percent to 16 percent over the same period. In 1945, at the close of World War II, only 5 percent of the men had incomes that high.

Among women, the average income in 1952 was about $100 higher than a year earlier. Even with this increase, however, women's incomes are still only slightly higher than at the close of World War II. One reason for this relative stability is that the effect of wage increases for women workers has been offset by an increase in the proportion of intermittent workers, particularly married women, whose annual earnings tend to be low.

The median income of farm residents did not change during the year. However, increases were recorded for both nonfarm men and women. The two most important occupation groups among women (clerical workers and operatives) showed increases in income of about 8 percent. Among men, the largest relative gain was reported by the salaried professional and managerial workers. Operatives and craftsmen, who together comprise about two-fifths of the male labor force, had moderate gains of between 4 and 5 percent. Men employed in the other occupation groups showed no change in average income during the year.

The 1952 income data presented in this report were obtained from the Bureau of the Census Current Population Survey of April 1953. Additional income data from this survey for persons and families will appear in more detailed reports to be issued later this year. Other data relating to the income received by the population are available from the Personal Income Series of the Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Board Survey of Consumer Finances, Federal income tax data, and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance wage record data. These data are collected for different purposes and, therefore, differ in several important respects. A discussion of the comparability of these data may be found in the Bureau of the Census report, "Income of Persons in the United States: 1951," Series P-60, No. 11.

Information on income was collected in the Bureau of the Census Current Population Survey from the civilian noninstitutional population and members of the armed forces living off post or with their families on post in continental United States. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Medians and other figures, when based on relatively small numbers of cases, as well as small differences between figures, should be used with particular care. Moreover, as in all field surveys of income, the figures are subject to errors of response and nonreporting.

Income as defined in this report represents total money income, or the sum of money wages ar salaries, net income from self-employment, and i come other than earnings. The median income the amount which divides the income distributio

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persons into two equal groups, one group having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. The medians are based on the income distribution of persons who received some income during the calendar year.

This report covers money income only, prior to deductions for taxes. Inasmuch as farmers typically receive an important part of their proceeds in the form of goods produced and consumed on the farm rather than in money, this factor should be taken into consideration in comparing the income of farm and nonfarm residents.

In comparing income data for 1952 with those for previous years, one should take account of the fact that changes in income were accompanied by changes in prices. Therefore, an increase or a decrease in income does not necessarily represent a similar change in economic well-being.

DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, FARM AND NONFARM: 1945 AND 1950 TO 1952

Total money income	Both sexes				Male				Female			
	1952	1951	1950	1945	1952	1951	1950	1945	1952	1951	1950	1945
UNITED STATES												
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent with income	67.7	65.3	65.3	65.3	91.1	90.1	90.1	89.5	46.6	43.7	43.2	45.1
Percent without income	32.3	34.7	34.7	34.7	8.9	9.9	9.9	10.5	53.4	56.3	56.8	54.9
Percent of those with income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Loss	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1
$1 to $499	15.1	16.0	18.0	18.7	7.7	8.7	10.6	11.6	28.0	29.2	31.7	30.3
$500 to $999	12.0	12.4	13.1	19.4	8.2	8.4	9.4	16.5	18.7	19.6	19.8	24.3
$1,000 to $1,499	8.5	8.4	9.2	15.9	7.2	7.0	8.0	13.8	10.8	10.9	11.4	19.4
$1,500 to $1,999	8.3	8.8	9.7	12.8	6.7	6.9	8.4	12.2	11.0	12.3	12.2	13.8
$2,000 to $2,499	9.1	10.1	11.5	10.8	8.3	9.6	11.4	13.2	10.6	11.0	11.6	7.0
$2,500 to $2,999	8.1	8.9	8.9	7.7	8.5	9.8	10.2	10.7	7.4	7.2	6.5	2.7
$3,000 to $3,499	11.1	9.7	9.3	5.7	13.2	12.3	12.5	8.4	7.4	4.9	3.3	1.1
$3,500 to $3,999	7.1	7.4	5.9	3.1	9.7	10.3	8.4	4.8	2.6	2.2	1.2	0.3
$4,000 to $4,499	5.5	5.5	4.3	1.5	7.8	8.0	6.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.2
$4,500 to $4,999	3.8	3.2	2.4	1.0	5.7	4.7	3.4	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2
$5,000 to $5,999	5.4	4.3	3.1	1.6	8.0	6.4	4.6	2.4	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1
$6,000 to $9,999	4.3	3.7	2.7	0.8	6.4	5.5	4.0	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1
$10,000 and over	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.5	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Median income for persons with income	$2,315	$2,200	$1,971	$1,360	$3,105	$2,952	$2,570	$1,811	$1,147	$1,045	$953	$901
URBAN AND RURAL NONFARM												
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent with income	68.8	66.7	66.3	67.4	91.9	90.7	90.8	90.5	48.5	46.2	45.2	48.8
Percent without income	31.2	33.3	33.7	32.6	8.1	9.3	9.2	9.5	51.5	53.8	54.8	51.2
Median income for persons with income	$2,472	$2,341	$2,111	$1,478	$3,258	$3,130	$2,784	$2,042	$1,252	$1,147	$1,043	$962
RURAL FARM												
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent with income	60.6	57.1	59.6	55.8	86.7	86.4	86.7	85.3	33.3	27.7	31.0	27.6
Percent without income	39.4	42.9	40.4	44.2	13.3	13.6	13.3	14.7	66.7	72.3	69.0	72.4
Median income for persons with income	$1,114	$1,184	$964	$765	$1,481	$1,486	$1,328	$904	$449	$440	$417	$431