

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION ESTIMATES

August 22, 1954

Washington 25, D. C.

Series P-25, No. 100

ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE FOR STATES NOVEMBER 1954

(This report presents estimates of the civilian population 21 years old and over for November 1, 1954, 1952, and 1950. The estimates for 1952 shown in this report supersede those published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 63)

The number of civilians old enough to vote will pass the 100 million mark by November 2, 1954, the date of the forthcoming national election, according to estimates announced today by Robert W. Burgess, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This total includes the civilian population 21 years old and over for all States and the civilian population 18 to 20 years old for Georgia where persons as young as 18 years are permitted by law to vote. It does not include members of the Armed Forces of voting age who number approximately 2½ million.

The civilian population of voting age includes a great many persons who, although old enough to vote, cannot do so because they have not satisfied State requirements as to citizenship, residence, registration, or payment of poll taxes. It is estimated that there will be about 2½ million aliens of voting age in the United States in November. Among the citizens of voting age, there are many persons

who may not vote because they are confined in penal institutions or are inmates of mental hospitals and kindred institutions. In all these cases, eligibility to vote is determined by State laws, which vary in many respects. Furthermore, there is a substantial number of persons in the District of Columbia who lack voting residence in any State.

In the presidential election of 1952 the greatest number of votes in this Nation's history was cast for presidential electors (61,551,978) and for United States Representatives (57,560,000). The total vote for President amounted to about 52.7 percent of the civilian population of voting age (a small part of the vote was cast by persons in the Armed Forces). This percentage is the largest of those in the last 5 presidential elections. There were 58.7 votes cast per 100 civilians of voting age for Representatives in 1952, the largest percentage of those in the last 10 general elections. (See table 1.)

Table 1.—CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, 1934 TO 1954, AND VOTE CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES, 1934 TO 1952

Date	Estimated civilian population of voting age ¹	Vote cast for presidential electors		Vote cast for United States Representatives	
		Number	Percent of civilian population of voting age	Number	Percent of civilian population of voting age
November 1954.....	100,223,000	...	...	...	...
November 1952.....	98,135,000	61,551,978	62.7	57,560,000	58.7
November 1950.....	97,023,000	...	...	40,430,000	41.7
November 1948.....	94,877,000	48,833,680	51.5	46,142,485	48.6
November 1946.....	92,018,000	...	...	34,398,450	37.4
November 1944.....	90,599,000	47,976,263	53.0	45,103,042	49.8
November 1942.....	82,851,000	...	...	28,074,365	33.9
November 1940.....	84,319,000	49,820,312	59.1	46,950,848	55.7
November 1938.....	82,225,000	...	...	36,235,629	44.1
November 1936.....	80,055,000	45,647,117	57.0	42,885,505	53.6
November 1934.....	77,898,000	...	...	32,532,700	41.8

¹ Population 21 years old and over plus population 18 to 20 years in Georgia for 1944 to 1954.

² Total population including Armed Forces overseas. Civilian population was 81,024,000.

³ Vote cast by civilians was 45,285,000. See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Election: 1944, Nos. 3 and 5.

In the last five presidential election years, the vote cast for Representatives was generally between 2½ to 4 million less than the vote cast for President. In nonpresidential election years, the vote cast for Representatives has fallen off by several times that number. (See chart on page 4.) In forecasting the vote to be cast in November, account should be taken not only of the more than 2 million increase since 1952 in the civilian population of voting age, but also of the fact that 1954 is an "off-year" election.

According to the estimates, the civilian population of voting age will be greater in November 1954 than in November 1950 in all but 13 States. (See table 2.) In 5 of these States, West Virginia, Iowa, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Arkansas, the losses are estimated at between 2 and 5 percent. In the remaining 8 States, the indicated loss is well below 2 percent. Among the States with indicated increases in the population of voting age, 4 States (Nevada, Arizona, Florida, and California) have gains of over 10 percent; 8 States (Delaware, New Mexico, Connecticut, Utah, Michigan, Maryland, New Jersey, and Texas) have gains of between 5 and 10 percent; and the remaining 24 States have gains of less than 5 percent. The States with the largest increases are all among those that are estimated to have gained heavily through migration since 1950. (See Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 97.)

METHODOLOGY

The estimates of the total civilian population of voting age in the United States presented in this release are based on data from the 1930, 1940, and 1950 Censuses; vital statistics provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; statistics on immigration and emigration provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and figures relating to the Armed Forces provided by the Department of Defense.

The State estimates of the civilian population 21 years old and over for November 1954 are based on statistics for the corresponding younger group in April 1950, adjusted for deaths, net movement of civilians into the Armed Forces, and net civilian migration between April 1950 and November 1954. The estimates for November 1950 and 1952 were developed in a similar fashion.

The estimates of deaths since 1950 in the age group 21 years old and over in November 1954 are based on statistics of resident deaths by age for 1950, provisional statistics on total deaths between April 1950 and November 1954, and estimates of deaths of persons in the Armed Forces stationed in each State. The estimated net movement of civilians into the Armed Forces for each State was obtained as the difference between the estimated number of persons 21 years old and over in the Armed Forces in November 1954 and the number at the corresponding younger age in the Armed Forces in April 1950 adjusted for deaths of persons in this group while serving in the Armed Forces.

The estimates of net civilian migration since 1950 in the age group 21 years old and over in November 1954, by States, are based on estimated rates of net migration for the total population of each State. The rates of net migration for the total population, in turn, are based on statistics from the 1950 Census, statistics on enrollment in the elementary grades of public and private schools, statistics on civilian immigration and emigration, and birth and death statistics. The latest school data available for all States at the time these estimates were prepared related to the end of the school year 1952-1953. It was necessary, therefore, to extend our estimates of net internal migration from July 1953 to November 1954 without benefit of current school data for the intervening period. It was assumed in making the estimates that the rate of net migration for the population 21 years old and over was essentially the same as that for the population of all ages, but this assumption may not apply equally well to all States. Hence, the State figures on net migration may vary considerably in accuracy.

The net change between 1950 and 1954 in the number of civilians of voting age is the net result of deaths, net movement into the Armed Forces, net civilian migration, and the accession of persons reaching voting age. Errors in the estimates of these components of change will effect the figures for net change shown in table 2. The estimates of net migration are subject to a considerably greater percentage error than are the estimates for the other components of population change. For some States, net migration is relatively large, and hence the estimates of net change between 1950 and 1954 for these States are subject to substantial error. Percentage-wise, however, the errors in the estimates of total population will probably be considerably smaller than those in the estimates of net change.

Table 2.—ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, NOVEMBER 1954, 1952, AND 1950, AND VOTE CAST FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES, 1952 AND 1950

(Each estimate has been independently rounded to the nearest thousand from figures computed to the last digit; hence, the sums of parts shown may differ slightly from the totals shown. Amount and percentages of change are based on unrounded numbers)

Region, division, and State	Civilian population of voting age ¹					Vote cast for United States Representatives			
	November 1, 1954	November 1, 1952	November 1, 1950	Increase (+) or decrease (-), 1950 to 1954		1952		1950	
				Amount	Percent	Number ²	Percent of civilian population of voting age	Number ²	Percent of civilian population of voting age
United States.....	100,223,000	98,135,000	97,023,000	+3,199,000	+3.3	57,560,000	58.7	40,430,000	41.7
REGIONS:									
Northeast.....	27,429,000	27,073,000	26,925,000	+504,000	+1.9	18,168,000	67.1	13,748,000	51.1
North Central.....	29,853,000	29,471,000	29,286,000	+567,000	+1.9	20,310,000	68.9	15,339,000	52.4
South.....	29,039,000	28,273,000	28,192,000	+848,000	+3.0	10,690,000	37.8	5,138,000	18.2
West.....	13,901,000	13,318,000	12,619,000	+1,281,000	+10.2	8,391,000	63.0	6,204,000	49.2
NORTHEAST:									
New England.....	6,446,000	6,305,000	6,256,000	+190,000	+3.0	4,434,000	70.3	3,613,000	57.8
Middle Atlantic.....	20,984,000	20,768,000	20,670,000	+314,000	+1.5	13,734,000	66.1	10,135,000	49.0
NORTH CENTRAL:									
East North Central.....	20,737,000	20,444,000	20,167,000	+570,000	+2.8	14,010,000	68.5	10,779,000	53.4
West North Central.....	9,116,000	9,027,000	9,120,000	-4,000	(⁴)	6,300,000	69.8	4,560,000	50.0
SOUTH:									
South Atlantic.....	13,400,000	12,978,000	12,805,000	+594,000	+4.6	5,025,000	38.7	2,655,000	20.7
East South Central.....	6,614,000	6,505,000	6,639,000	-26,000	-0.4	2,235,000	34.4	992,000	14.9
West South Central.....	9,026,000	8,790,000	8,747,000	+279,000	+3.2	3,430,000	39.0	1,491,000	17.0
WEST:									
Mountain.....	3,284,000	3,152,000	3,027,000	+257,000	+8.5	2,145,000	68.1	1,622,000	53.6
Pacific.....	10,617,000	10,166,000	9,593,000	+1,024,000	+10.7	6,246,000	61.4	4,582,000	47.8
NEW ENGLAND:									
Maine.....	569,000	554,000	574,000	-4,000	-0.8	234,000	42.3	238,000	41.5
New Hampshire.....	341,000	343,000	349,000	-8,000	-2.4	258,000	75.3	185,000	53.0
Vermont.....	237,000	229,000	237,000	(³)	(⁴)	153,000	66.9	89,000	37.5
Massachusetts.....	3,289,000	3,212,000	3,184,000	+105,000	+3.3	2,289,000	71.3	1,947,000	61.1
Rhode Island.....	524,000	525,000	526,000	-2,000	-0.3	407,000	77.6	293,000	55.7
Connecticut.....	1,485,000	1,443,000	1,386,000	+100,000	+7.2	1,093,000	75.8	861,000	62.1
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:									
New York.....	10,470,000	10,395,000	10,352,000	+118,000	+1.1	6,910,000	66.5	5,052,000	48.8
New Jersey.....	3,497,000	3,436,000	3,329,000	+168,000	+5.1	2,316,000	67.4	1,571,000	47.2
Pennsylvania.....	7,017,000	6,937,000	6,989,000	+28,000	+0.4	4,508,000	65.0	3,512,000	50.2
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:									
Ohio.....	5,469,000	5,380,000	5,288,000	+181,000	+3.4	3,382,000	62.9	2,767,000	52.3
Indiana.....	2,648,000	2,646,000	2,576,000	+73,000	+2.8	1,936,000	73.2	1,587,000	61.6
Illinois.....	6,023,000	5,974,000	5,943,000	+80,000	+1.3	4,352,000	72.8	3,510,000	59.1
Michigan.....	4,360,000	4,229,000	4,137,000	+223,000	+5.4	2,727,000	65.5	1,805,000	43.6
Wisconsin.....	2,237,000	2,215,000	2,223,000	+14,000	+0.6	1,568,000	70.8	1,110,000	49.9
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:									
Minnesota.....	1,917,000	1,896,000	1,913,000	+3,000	+0.2	1,388,000	73.2	1,018,000	53.2
Iowa.....	1,648,000	1,650,000	1,702,000	-54,000	-3.2	1,143,000	69.3	820,000	48.2
Missouri.....	2,678,000	2,633,000	2,637,000	+42,000	+1.6	1,861,000	70.7	1,250,000	47.4
North Dakota.....	367,000	354,000	367,000	-1,000	-0.2	231,000	65.2	181,000	49.3
South Dakota.....	390,000	393,000	400,000	-10,000	-2.4	287,000	73.1	248,000	62.0
Nebraska.....	857,000	857,000	858,000	-1,000	-0.1	566,000	66.0	436,000	50.8
Kansas.....	1,259,000	1,244,000	1,242,000	+17,000	+1.3	824,000	66.2	607,000	48.9
SOUTH ATLANTIC:									
Delaware.....	231,000	226,000	213,000	+18,000	+8.5	170,000	75.3	129,000	60.6
Maryland.....	1,585,000	1,562,000	1,508,000	+77,000	+5.1	841,000	53.9	573,000	38.0
District of Columbia.....	563,000	553,000	558,000	+4,000	+0.8	...	...	...	...
Virginia.....	2,031,000	1,983,000	1,959,000	+71,000	+3.6	447,000	22.5	212,000	10.8
West Virginia.....	1,118,000	1,124,000	1,171,000	-53,000	-4.5	875,000	77.8	663,000	56.6
North Carolina.....	2,352,000	2,303,000	2,289,000	+64,000	+2.8	1,122,000	48.7	522,000	22.8
South Carolina.....	1,156,000	1,130,000	1,140,000	+17,000	+1.5	284,000	25.1	50,000	4.4
Georgia.....	2,147,000	2,116,000	2,156,000	-9,000	-0.4	547,000	25.9	253,000	11.7
Florida.....	2,217,000	1,982,000	1,811,000	+406,000	+22.4	739,000	37.3	253,000	14.0
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:									
Kentucky.....	1,698,000	1,671,000	1,722,000	-24,000	-1.4	951,000	56.9	489,000	28.4
Tennessee.....	1,989,000	1,941,000	1,977,000	+12,000	+0.6	700,000	36.1	263,000	13.3
Alabama.....	1,747,000	1,727,000	1,742,000	+5,000	+0.3	343,000	19.9	152,000	8.7
Mississippi.....	1,181,000	1,166,000	1,199,000	-18,000	-1.5	241,000	20.7	88,000	7.3
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:									
Arkansas.....	1,090,000	1,061,000	1,113,000	-24,000	-2.1	362,000	34.1	296,000	26.6
Louisiana.....	1,663,000	1,591,000	1,595,000	+69,000	+4.3	416,000	26.2	227,000	14.2
Oklahoma.....	1,368,000	1,341,000	1,370,000	-2,000	-0.1	933,000	69.6	608,000	44.4
Texas.....	4,905,000	4,797,000	4,669,000	+235,000	+5.0	1,719,000	35.8	360,000	7.7
MOUNTAIN:									
Montana.....	378,000	366,000	370,000	+8,000	+2.2	256,000	70.0	211,000	57.0
Idaho.....	352,000	341,000	349,000	+3,000	+1.0	265,000	77.7	200,000	57.3
Wyoming.....	180,000	176,000	174,000	+5,000	+3.2	127,000	72.1	93,000	53.4
Colorado.....	865,000	860,000	833,000	+32,000	+3.8	607,000	70.6	443,000	53.2
New Mexico.....	396,000	381,000	368,000	+28,000	+7.7	234,000	61.5	173,000	47.0
Arizona.....	563,000	501,000	438,000	+125,000	+28.6	248,000	49.5	178,000	40.7
Utah.....	414,000	407,000	390,000	+24,000	+6.2	327,000	80.3	264,000	67.7
Nevada.....	135,000	120,000	105,000	+31,000	+29.2	81,000	67.8	60,000	57.3
PACIFIC:									
Washington.....	1,553,000	1,533,000	1,511,000	+41,000	+2.7	1,016,000	66.3	724,000	47.9
Oregon.....	1,046,000	1,027,000	1,004,000	+42,000	+4.2	666,000	64.9	499,000	49.7
California.....	8,018,000	7,606,000	7,078,000	+940,000	+13.3	4,564,000	60.0	3,359,000	47.5

¹ The population figures for all States except Georgia relate to civilians 21 years old and over. For Georgia the figures are for the civilian population 18 years old and over.

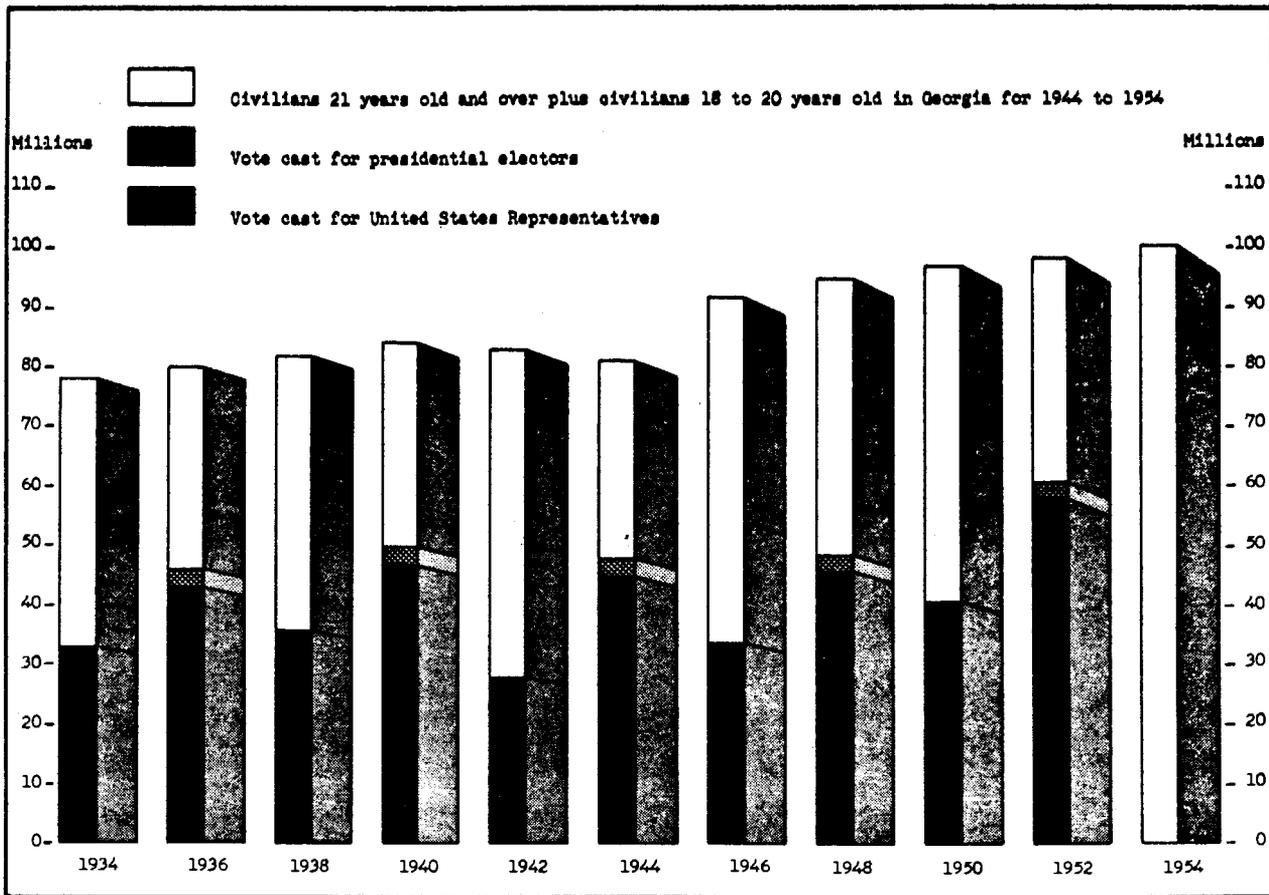
² See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1953.

³ Less than 1,000.

⁴ Less than 0.1.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS: 1934 TO 1954

(See table 1)



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$200
(PMGC)