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INCOME OF PERSONS IN 1954 EQUALS 1953 LEVEL

(Advance data, April 1955 sample survey)

The average person's income in 1954 remained about the same as during 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 each year, according to estimates released today by Robert W. Burgess, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

The average income of men, which had been rising steadily between 1945 and 1953, leveled off at \$3,200 in 1953 and 1954. Between 1952 and 1953 a gain of about \$100 had been recorded. The proportion of men whose incomes were \$5,000 or over rose from 16 percent in 1952 to about 20 percent in 1953 and 1954. In 1945, at the close of World War II, only 5 percent of the men had incomes that high. Among women, the average (median) income in 1954 was estimated at \$1,200, about the same as it had been in the preceding two years. Since the close of World War II, the average income of women has increased by about \$250, or 30 percent, while that of men has climbed about \$1,400, or 75 percent.

The average income of men in most occupation groups did not fall during 1954, despite the decline in business activity which followed the end of the Korean conflict. Other evidence indicates that wage rate increases in most industries tended to offset the effect of reductions in the extent of full-time year-round work, which accompanied the short-run cut-backs in nonagricultural production and employment.

The 1954 income data presented in this report were obtained from the Bureau of the Census Current Population Survey of April 1955. 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 Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 16, "Income of Persons in the United States: 1953."

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 and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings. The median income is the amount which divides the income distribution of 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 1954 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 1952 TO 1954

Total money income	Both sexes				Male				Female			
	1954	1953	1952	1945	1954	1953	1952	1945	1954	1953	1952	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.....	66.7	67.9	67.7	65.3	89.8	91.3	91.3	89.5	46.3	46.4	46.5	45.1
Percent without income.....	33.3	32.1	32.3	34.7	10.2	8.7	8.7	10.5	53.7	53.6	53.5	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
Less.....	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1
\$1 to \$499.....	15.1	15.1	15.1	18.7	8.6	8.7	7.7	11.6	26.2	26.3	28.0	30.3
\$500 to \$999.....	12.9	12.4	12.0	19.4	8.8	8.3	8.2	16.5	19.9	19.5	18.7	24.3
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	8.7	8.2	8.5	15.9	7.3	6.4	7.2	13.8	11.2	11.3	10.8	19.4
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	7.9	7.5	8.3	12.8	6.5	6.0	6.7	12.2	10.2	10.1	11.0	13.8
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	7.8	8.8	9.1	10.8	6.7	7.6	8.3	13.2	9.8	10.7	10.6	7.1
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	7.3	7.4	8.1	7.7	7.4	7.4	8.5	10.7	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.1
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	8.4	8.8	11.1	5.7	9.3	10.1	13.2	8.4	6.9	6.5	7.4	7.1
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.1	7.1	3.1	9.1	9.2	9.7	4.8	3.8	3.4	2.6	2.6
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	6.0	6.1	5.5	1.5	8.4	8.7	7.8	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.4	0.1
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	4.2	4.1	3.8	1.0	6.2	6.1	5.7	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.2
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	6.2	6.4	5.4	1.6	9.2	9.5	8.0	2.4	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.1
\$6,000 to \$9,999.....	5.8	5.5	4.3	0.8	8.8	8.5	6.4	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.1
\$10,000 and over.....	1.8	1.6	1.3	0.5	2.7	2.3	1.9	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
Median income for persons with income..	\$2,301	\$2,341	\$2,315	\$1,360	\$3,199	\$3,223	\$3,105	\$1,811	\$1,161	\$1,168	\$1,147	\$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.....	67.8	68.4	68.8	67.4	90.5	91.9	92.3	90.5	48.2	48.3	48.4	48.8
Percent without income.....	32.2	31.6	31.2	32.6	9.5	8.1	7.7	9.5	51.8	51.7	51.6	51.2
Median income for persons with income..	\$2,494	\$2,513	\$2,472	\$1,478	\$3,469	\$3,421	\$3,258	\$2,042	\$1,252	\$1,250	\$1,252	\$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.....	60.0	60.9	60.6	55.8	85.2	87.3	87.3	85.3	32.7	32.9	33.3	27.6
Percent without income.....	40.0	39.1	39.4	44.2	14.8	12.7	12.7	14.7	67.3	67.1	66.7	72.4
Median income for persons with income..	\$1,044	\$1,083	\$1,114	\$765	\$1,342	\$1,394	\$1,481	\$904	\$499	\$482	\$449	\$431