

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION ESTIMATES

August 1957

Washington 25, D. C.

Series P-25, No. 161

POPULATION OF THE NEW YORK-NORTHEASTERN NEW JERSEY STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREA: APRIL 1957

More than 14 million people now live in the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area, according to the results of censuses and estimates of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. On April 1, 1957, the estimated population of the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area was 14,066,000, compared with 12,912,000 on April 1, 1950, the date of the last decennial census. These figures indicate a gain of 1,154,000, or 8.9 percent, for the 7-year period. During this same period the Nation as a whole grew by about 12.6 percent, or somewhat faster than the New York-Northeastern New Jersey area. The population of this area exceeds that of any State except New York State. The New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area consists of New York City (five boroughs), Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, and Rockland Counties in New York and Bergen, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Union, Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset Counties in New Jersey. The figures represent the civilian population plus members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area.

Postcensal rates of growth were substantially different for the principal parts of the metropolitan area. The New York counties in the standard metropolitan area, outside New York City, registered tremendous gains. As a group they increased from 1,664,000 in 1950 to an estimated 2,570,000 in 1957, that is, by 906,000, or 54.4 percent, during the 7-year period. As a result, these New York suburban counties now contain about 18.3 percent of the population in the metropolitan area compared with 12.9 percent in 1950.

The New Jersey portion of the metropolitan area had an estimated population of 3,724,000 in 1957,

compared with 3,356,000 in 1950. These figures indicate a gain of 368,000, or 11.0 percent, in the period since the 1950 Census. The New Jersey portion grew at roughly the same rate as the total area and, hence, made up about the same proportion of the total area in 1957 as in 1950--26 percent. New York City showed a slight decline in population; it contains 55.3 percent of the area total in 1957 compared with 61.1 percent in 1950.

Methodology.--The estimates for the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area are based upon a combination of the results of special censuses for certain areas and estimates for the remainder of the standard metropolitan area. The figures for all of the New York portion of the metropolitan area except Long Beach city represent the results (still subject to final revision) of special censuses conducted by the Bureau of the Census in these areas as of April 1, 1957. The results of the special census of Long Beach city, taken in March 1956, were extrapolated to April 1, 1957. The figures for the New Jersey portion of the metropolitan area represent estimates based largely on an average of the results of two methods. Both methods use the 1950 Census as a base and estimate the population growth or decline since 1950 by use of various postcensal series of data indicative of population change. In general, the averaging technique tends to avoid extreme errors and to reduce the dependence of the results on any one set of indicators.

The methods used were (a) the Census Bureau's component method II, which employs vital statistics to measure natural increase and school enrollment (or school census data) as a basis for estimating net migration; and (b) the vital rates method, which

employs data on births and deaths as direct indicators of total population change.¹

The Census Bureau's component method II involves adding to the 1950 population of the area the natural increase (excess of births over deaths) between April 1, 1950, the date of the last census, and the estimate date, and adding or subtracting an estimate of the net migration for the same period. The latter estimate is obtained by a comparison of the estimated number of children of elementary school age, based on school enrollment (or school census data) on the estimate date, with the number of children of this same age expected to survive from the appropriate age groups of 1950. The comparison yields an estimate of the net migration rate for children of school age; and this rate, in turn, becomes the basis for estimating net migration for the population of all ages. This method is used by the Bureau of the Census in preparing its annual series of current estimates of State population. A detailed description of this method was published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 133; a briefer description, including a revision in procedure, was published in Series P-25, No. 145.

The vital rates method of estimating current population is based on the assumption that changes

¹ For an evaluation of several methods of preparing population estimates, including the Census Bureau's component method II and the vital rates method, see: Jacob S. Siegel, Henry S. Shryock, Jr., and Benjamin Greenberg, "Accuracy of Postcensal Estimates of Population for States and Cities," American Sociological Review, Vol. 19, No. 4, August 1954, pp. 440-446; and Henry S. Shryock, Jr., "Development of Postcensal Population Estimates for Local Areas," Regional Income, Vol. 21, in Studies in Income and Wealth, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., N. Y., Princeton University Press, 1957.

in the number of births and deaths in an area reflect changes in the size of the population in which the births and deaths occur. To compute estimates by this procedure, the ratio of the area death rate to the United States rate in 1950 is applied to the United States rate at the estimate date to obtain an estimate of the area death rate at the estimate date. This procedure assumes that the area birth and death rates changed by the same percentages between 1950 and the estimate date as the national birth and death rates. The estimated death rate for the current year is then divided into the current number of deaths of residents of the area to provide a tentative current population estimate for the area. A corresponding figure is derived by a similar type of manipulation of births and birth rates. These two first-stage population estimates are then averaged to obtain the final population estimate.²

Statistics on school enrollment were available up through the period ending June 30, 1956. Vital statistics were available through the calendar year 1956. Thus, estimates by the Census Bureau's method II and the vital rates method could be prepared for July 1, 1956, and the results had to be extrapolated to April 1, 1957. The basic data necessary to prepare the population estimates for the New Jersey area presented here were provided primarily by State agencies. Thus, school enrollment data were obtained from the State Department of Education and from the appropriate parochial school officials. Vital statistics were provided by the New Jersey State Department of Health.

² A more detailed discussion of this method is given in: Donald J. Bogue, "A Technique for Making Extensive Population Estimates," Journal of the American Statistical Association, Vol. 45, No. 250, June 1950, pp. 149-163; and U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 97, p. 2.

POPULATION OF THE NEW YORK-NORTHEASTERN NEW JERSEY STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREA: APRIL 1, 1957

(Figures represent a combination of results of censuses and estimates; see text for detailed explanation)

Standard metropolitan area and constituent parts	Population		Change, 1950 to 1957		Percent distribution	
	1957	1950	Number	Percent	1957	1950
Total standard metropolitan area.....	14,066,000	12,912,000	+1,154,000	+8.9	100.0	100.0
New York portion.....	10,342,000	9,556,000	+786,000	+8.2	73.5	74.0
New York City.....	7,772,000	7,892,000	-120,000	-1.5	55.3	61.1
Remainder.....	2,570,000	1,664,000	+906,000	+54.4	18.3	12.9
New Jersey portion.....	3,724,000	3,356,000	+368,000	+11.0	26.5	26.0