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AVERAGE INCOME ROSE SLIGHTLY IN 1957 DESPITE INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT

(Advance data, March 1958 sample survey)

The average income of men and women rose slightly in 1957 in spite of the business downturn which started in the second half of the year, according to estimates released today by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The average (median) income of men who received some income was estimated at $3,700, a gain of about $75, or 2 percent, over the previous year. This change, however, was considerably smaller than the average annual increase among men since World War II, and compared with a rise of $250 between 1955 and 1956. Among women with income, the average (median) income was $1,200 in 1957, a gain of about $50 over the 1956 average.

The slight over-all increase in income, despite mounting unemployment and cutbacks in the workweek, could be largely attributed to the continued rise in wage rates in most industries. In fact, among year-round workers, the rise in income was comparatively sharp even in 1957. Men who worked at full-time jobs for 50 weeks or more had an average income of $4,700, a gain of about $260, or 6 percent, over the previous year. In contrast, men with less than a full year's employment had an average income of $2,000 in both years. Among women, year-round full-time workers had a median income of $3,000 in 1957, a gain of about $175 over the previous year, whereas the average income of other women workers was about the same ($900) in each year. As might be expected, the monetary income of persons who did not work at all but depended entirely upon pensions, dividends, public assistance, or other such sources was not affected by the change in employment conditions. In both years, the median income of nonworkers with income was about $1,000 for men and about $600 for women.

The 1957 income statistics presented in this report were obtained from the Bureau's Current Population Survey of March 1958. Additional income data from the 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 Department of Agriculture's farm income series, 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. 27, "Income of Families and Persons in the United States: 1956."

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

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continental United States. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Particular care should be used in interpreting medians and other figures when based on relatively small numbers of cases, as well as small differences between figures. 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 livelihood 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 1957 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: 1957, 1956, 1955, AND 1945

Total money income	Both sexes				Male				Female			
	1957	1956	1955	1945	1957	1956	1955	1945	1957	1956	1955	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	70.7	71.1	69.2	65.3	91.5	91.9	91.8	89.5	52.4	51.9	49.2	45.1
Percent without income	29.3	28.9	30.8	34.7	8.5	8.1	8.2	10.5	47.6	48.1	50.8	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	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1
$1 to $499	15.7	15.8	15.8	18.7	8.5	8.4	8.5	11.6	26.8	27.3	27.7	30.3
$500 to $999	12.3	12.5	12.8	19.4	8.1	8.1	8.8	16.5	18.7	19.3	19.3	24.3
$1,000 to $1,499	8.2	8.0	8.7	15.9	6.5	6.2	7.0	13.8	10.8	10.6	11.6	19.4
$1,500 to $1,999	6.7	6.8	7.0	12.8	5.2	5.5	5.8	12.2	9.1	8.7	9.0	13.8
$2,000 to $2,499	7.3	7.4	7.9	10.8	6.4	6.4	7.0	13.2	8.8	9.0	9.4	7.0
$2,500 to $2,999	5.6	6.1	6.3	7.7	5.2	5.7	6.2	10.7	6.1	6.7	6.4	2.7
$3,000 to $3,499	6.9	7.0	7.7	5.7	6.9	7.4	8.2	8.4	6.9	6.5	7.0	1.1
$3,500 to $3,999	5.9	6.3	6.5	3.1	6.8	7.4	8.3	4.8	4.4	4.5	3.7	0.3
$4,000 to $4,499	6.4	6.8	6.5	1.5	8.4	9.2	8.9	2.3	3.2	3.0	2.6	0.2
$4,500 to $4,999	4.9	4.6	4.6	1.0	6.9	6.7	6.9	1.5	1.7	1.3	0.8	0.2
$5,000 to $5,999	8.3	7.8	6.9	1.6	12.5	11.9	10.3	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.2	0.1
$6,000 to $9,999	9.0	8.1	6.8	0.8	14.1	12.7	10.5	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.1
$10,000 and over	2.4	2.3	1.9	0.5	3.7	3.6	2.9	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Median income for persons with income	$2,452	$2,432	$2,323	$1,360	$3,684	$3,608	$3,354	$1,811	$1,199	$1,146	$1,116	$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	71.5	71.8	69.9	67.4	92.0	92.4	92.2	90.5	53.9	53.3	50.7	48.8
Percent without income	28.5	28.2	30.1	32.6	8.0	7.6	7.8	9.5	46.1	46.7	49.3	51.2
Median income for persons with income	$2,702	$2,680	$2,570	$1,478	$3,986	$3,899	$3,652	$2,042	$1,302	$1,257	$1,225	$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	65.0	65.7	64.7	55.8	88.1	88.8	89.6	85.3	40.8	40.8	38.4	27.6
Percent without income	35.0	34.3	35.3	44.2	11.9	11.2	10.4	14.7	59.2	59.2	61.6	72.4
Median income for persons with income	$1,083	$1,029	$1,000	$765	$1,570	$1,461	$1,339	$904	$467	$468	$473	$431

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