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

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

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

CONSUMER INCOME

June 1958 | Washington 25, D. C. | Series P-60, No. 29

FAMILY INCOME UP 4 PERCENT IN 1957

(Advance data, March 1958 sample survey)

Average (median) family income in the United States was estimated at $5,000 in 1957, a gain of about $200, or 4 percent, over the previous year, according to estimates released today by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This increase probably represented no significant change in purchasing power for the average family, however, since prices also rose substantially during this period.[1]

The average income of nonfarm families rose by about 3 percent over the year, largely because of further increases in wage rates in most industries. In the case of the farm population, other evidence indicates that a rise in income over the year was due partly to increased earnings from nonfarm work. A growing number of farm families derive at least part of their income from employment off the farm.

One-tenth of the Nation's families received incomes of $10,000 or more, while an additional two-fifths had incomes ranging between $5,000 and $10,000. At the other end of the income scale, about 15 percent had incomes under $2,000. The remaining 35 percent were in the $2,000-$5,000 bracket. The distribution of families (groups of two or more related persons) by their income in 1957 is shown in the table.

[1] The Consumer Price Index of the Department of Labor averaged 116.2 in 1956 and 120.2 in 1957.

The 1957 income data presented in this report were obtained from information collected in the Bureau's Current Population Survey of March 1958. The survey covered the civilian noninstitutional population and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in continental United States. Additional family income data from this survey will appear in a more detailed report to be issued later this year.

Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family, or the sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the calendar year. The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median.

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures 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.

Other data relating to the income received by the population are available from the Personal Income Series of the Department of

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.
Price 10 cents. Annual subscription (Series P-60, P-50, and P-57, combined) $2.00; for foreign mailing $2.50.

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
(GPO)

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 earnings record data. These data are collected for different purposes and, therefore, differ from the Current Population Survey income data 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."

DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, FARM AND NONFARM: 1952 TO 1957

Total money income	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
UNITED STATES						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $500	3.0	3.2	3.4	4.6	4.7	4.1
$500 to $999	3.4	3.3	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.4
$1,000 to $1,499	4.0	4.4	4.9	5.6	4.9	5.3
$1,500 to $1,999	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.4	5.0	5.5
$2,000 to $2,499	5.2	5.1	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.7
$2,500 to $2,999	4.4	5.1	5.5	6.4	6.0	7.4
$3,000 to $3,499	5.7	6.2	7.4	7.5	7.6	9.7
$3,500 to $3,999	6.1	6.3	7.2	7.9	8.2	8.8
$4,000 to $4,499	7.3	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.2
$4,500 to $4,999	6.8	6.9	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.2
$5,000 to $5,999	14.5	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.2	11.9
$6,000 to $6,999	10.3	9.8	9.5	8.5	8.1	7.5
$7,000 to $9,999	16.3	15.6	12.9	11.1	11.6	9.1
$10,000 to $14,999	6.5	5.9	4.8	4.4	4.1	2.8
$15,000 to $24,999	1.4	1.5	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
$25,000 and over	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
Median income	$4,971	$4,783	$4,421	$4,173	$4,233	$3,890
URBAN AND RURAL NONFARM						
Median income	$5,232	$5,061	$4,705	$4,406	$4,462	$4,111
RURAL FARM						
Median income	$2,490	$2,371	$2,111	$1,973	$2,131	$2,226

USCOMM-DC