



Americans at Mid-Decade

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / Bureau of the Census

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★★★★★ **Americans at Mid-Decade**

Series P-23, No. 16

JANUARY 1966



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Foreword

It is now five and a half years since the last major census of population in the United States, the 1960 decennial census, provided a composite picture of the Nation's people—their geographic distribution and their social and economic characteristics. In the postcensal years, the population not only is growing rapidly but also is changing its places and patterns of living. Some parts of the country are experiencing major increases in population while others are at a standstill. The farm population is dwindling as families move to metropolitan areas. Residents of the central cities have continued to move to the suburbs. Levels of education and income are rising, and working habits and occupational attachments are changing. Evolving State and Federal programs to meet the country's rising social problems are focusing attention on special groups of the population and thereby increasing the need for up-to-date information.

Since 1960, the Bureau of the Census, by means of estimates and sample surveys, has provided information on some of the broad aspects of population change and growth. Included in its current program are estimates of the population of the United States, the 50 States and District of Columbia, the largest metropolitan areas, and selected outlying areas. Annual sample surveys have provided information on the characteristics of the population relating to local mobility and internal migration, size of school and college enrollment, levels of education, marital and family status, household formation and composition, childbearing, and family and personal income. Monthly statistics collected by the Bureau of the Census for the Department of Labor have provided information on the size and characteristics of the labor force, its occupational distribution, and the extent of unemployment.

It is the purpose of this report to bring together within the covers of a single publication the most significant facts presented in the various series of current population reports. Thus, its aim is to portray in summary terms, the population of the United States at mid-decade.

Information is presented here for the Nation as a whole, with cross-classifications by age, color, sex, and residence. Limited statistics on some subjects are shown for regions. Data for States and the 38 largest metropolitan areas are limited to estimates of total population. Conspicuously lacking are data for small areas—the Nation's more than 3,000 counties, 5,000 urban places, and 23,000 census tracts, for which data on a wide range of subjects were presented in the reports of the 1960 census. Updating information for these small areas and collection of data in greater detail for States, metropolitan areas, and the Nation as a whole cannot be accomplished through the present limited program of sample surveys and intercensal estimates.

Americans at Mid-Decade ★★★★★★

Population Growth

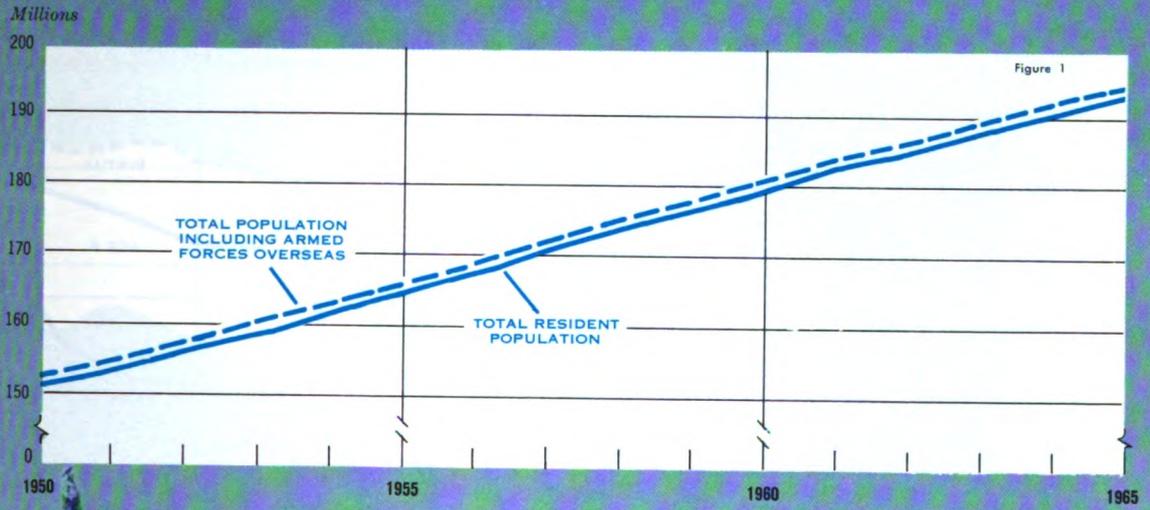
During the first half of the current decade, the Nation's population increased nearly 2.8 million per year, about the same as in the 1950's, reaching a total of 195 million in August 1965. This fairly steady increase in numbers, however, represented a slight decrease in the rate of population growth. Largely as a result of a declining birth rate, the growth rate fell during the late 1950's, and a continuation of this trend is reflected in the estimates for the first half of the present decade. Other factors (death rates and net immigration) contributing to population gain or loss had rela-

tively little effect, because the death rate remained fairly stable during the period, and immigration in recent decades has been a relatively minor factor in population growth.

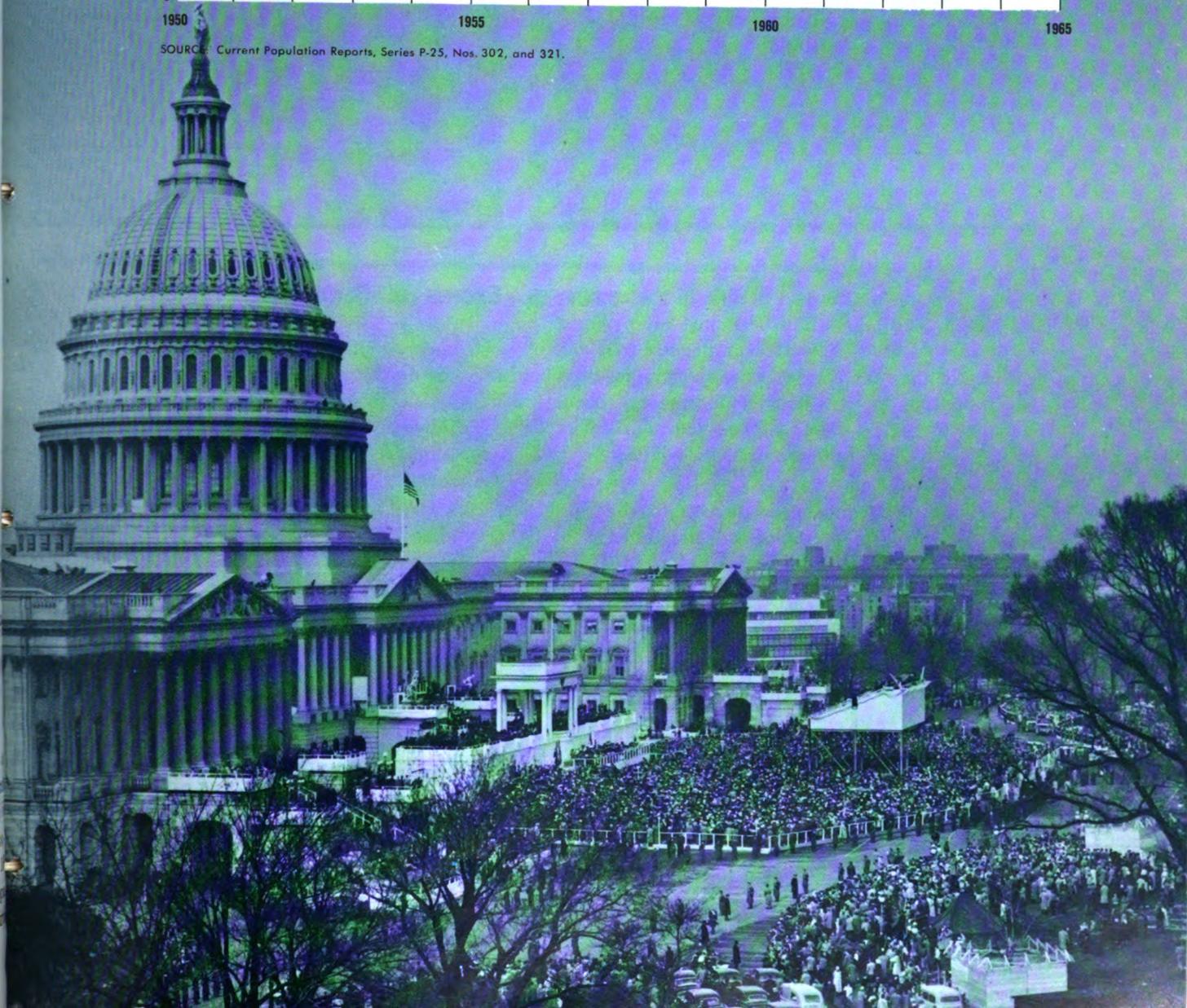
Changing Age Structure

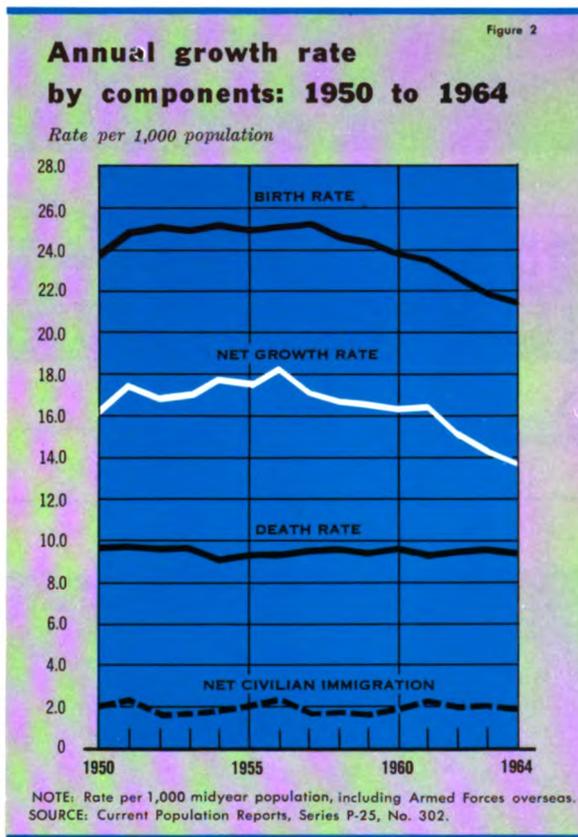
Gains in population were greater in some age groups than in others, largely because birth rates have varied from one period to another in the past. The population in the age groups 30 to 34 years and 35 to 39 years decreased between 1960 and 1965 because these ages comprise the population born in the late twenties and early thirties,

Total population of the United States: 1950 to 1965



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 302, and 321.



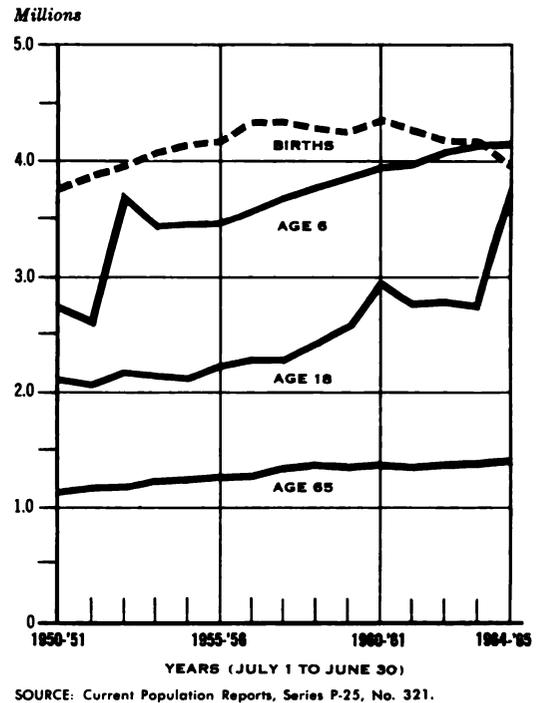


when there was a marked decline in the number of births. The population born just after World War II reached age 6 by 1953 and age 18 by 1965. Thus, the high birth rates since the war resulted in increases in the preschool and elementary school population in the 1950's and in the high school and college age population in the 1960's.

These varying amounts of increase for different age groups have an important impact on the Nation's educational and social welfare facilities and are reflected in the changing size and age of the labor force and in the demand for consumer goods. Between 1960 and 1965, approximately 4.1 million children per year reached age 6, the age at which most children enter elementary school. The population reaching age 18 averaged 2.8 million annually for the first four years of the decade but jumped to 3.7 million for the period July 1964 to June 1965. This is the age at which many young people enter college, become subject to military service, enter the labor force, or marry. About 1.5 million persons per year reached age 62, when retirement is permissible under recent revisions of the Social Security law.

Population reaching selected ages: 1950-51 to 1964-65

Figure 3



Excess of Females

The excess of females over males continued to increase during the 1960's, and in 1965, for every hundred women in the country, there were 96.4 men. Overall there were 3.6 million more women than men. This gap in numbers between males and females was greatest in the oldest ages (60 and over), because the increase in life expectancy has been greater for women than for men, and because a generation of immigrants among whom males predominated is passing.

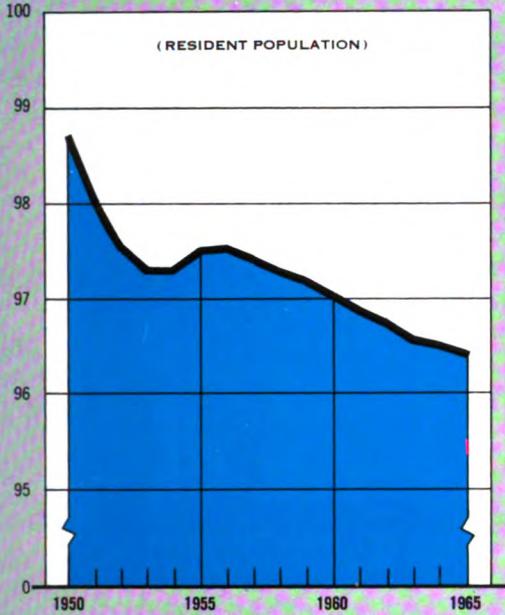
Changes in the Nonwhite Population

The nonwhite population increased more rapidly than the white population during the early 1960's, about 13 percent compared with 8 percent. Higher growth rates for nonwhites occurred at all ages except 18 to 24 years but were most marked for the childhood ages. The nonwhite population under 14 years of age increased 14 percent, compared with 5 percent for the white population. Nonwhites represented 11.9 percent

Males per 100 females: 1950 to 1965

Figure 4

Males per 100 females

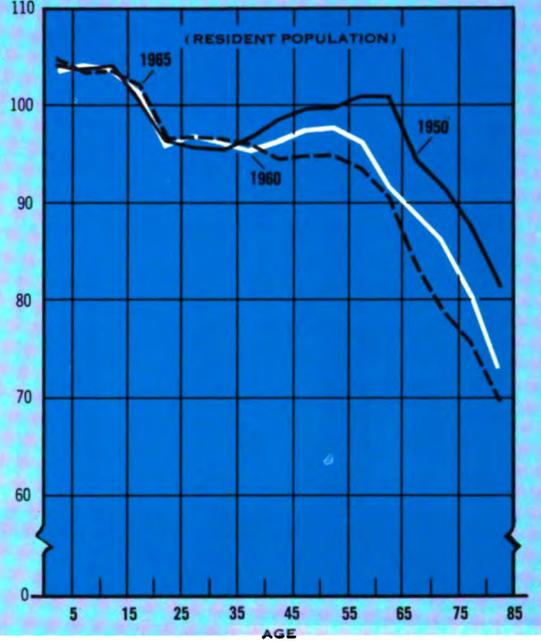


SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 321.

Males per 100 females, by age: 1965, 1960 and 1950

Figure 5

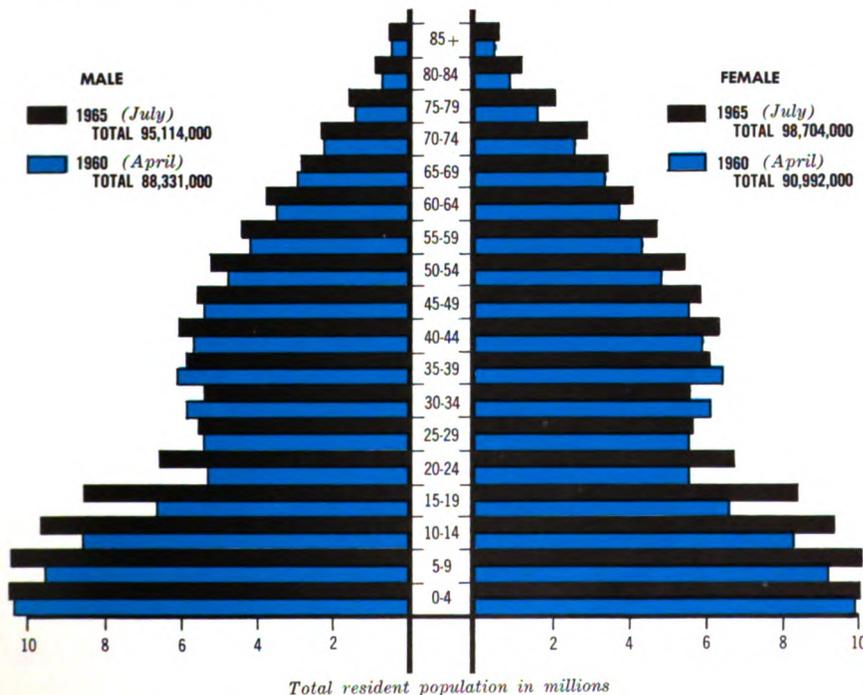
Males per 100 females



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 321.

Population by age and sex: 1965 and 1960

Figure 6



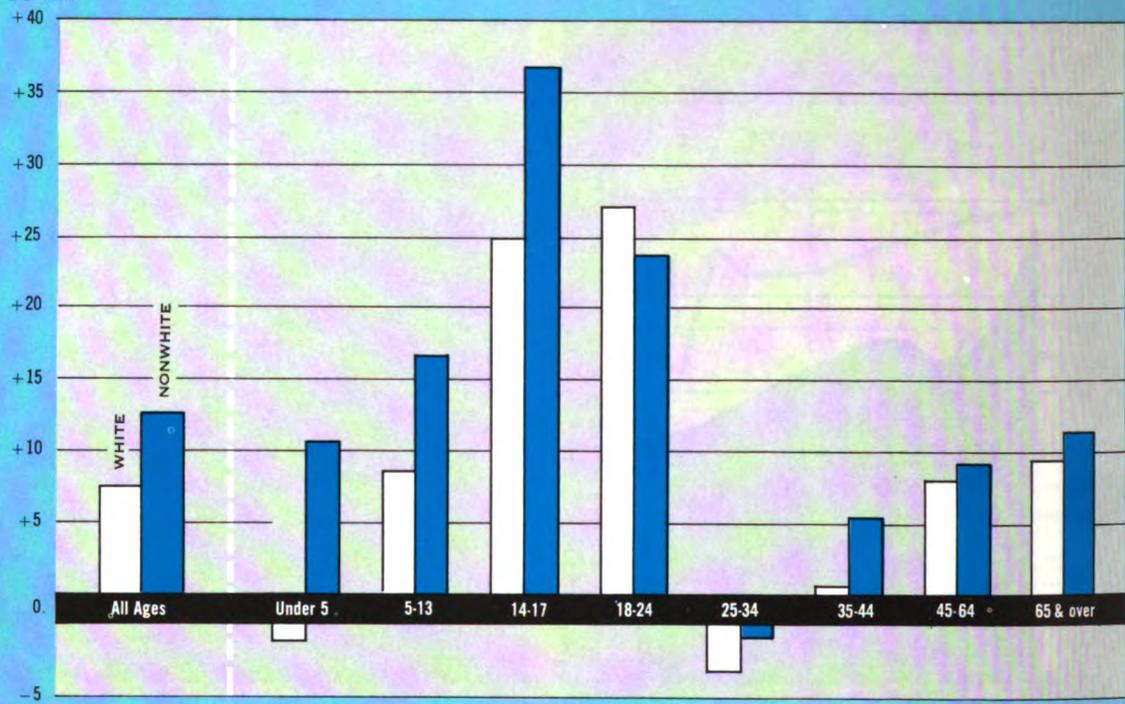
SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 321.



Change in white and nonwhite population by age: 1960 to 1965

Figure 7

Percent



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 321.

of the total population in 1965, compared with 11.4 percent in 1960. Since the nonwhite population of the United States is largely Negro (over 90 percent), patterns of growth for nonwhites largely reflect those of the country's Negroes.

Differences in patterns of growth resulted in a difference in age structure for the Negro population as compared with the white population. The Negro population was younger—approximately 37 percent were under 14 years of age, compared with 28 percent of the white population. Comparatively fewer Negroes were found in the oldest ages—whereas nearly 10 percent of the white population was 65 and over, only 6 percent of the Negro population was in this oldest age group.

Geographic Differences in Population Growth

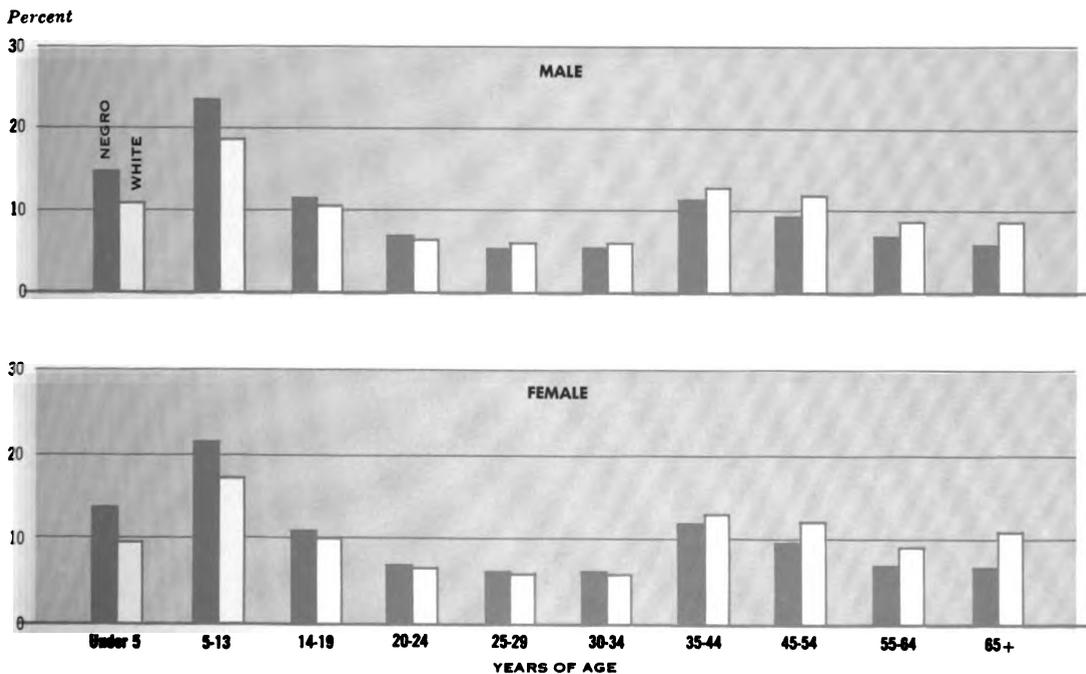
Geographic differences in population change during the first half of the 1960's were generally similar to those for the latter half of the previous decade. The West continued to be the fastest growing region, with an annual rate of increase

nearly twice that for the country as a whole. Three of the four most rapidly growing States were in the West, with only Florida in the remainder of the country keeping pace with this rapidly growing region. Whereas all regions showed some gain in population in the 1960's, the Northeastern and North Central States increased at a rate below the national average and the South only a little above average. The rate of increase picked up somewhat in the South and decreased in the North Central region during the present decade, suggesting that net migration from the South has slowed considerably and that the northern industrial areas are not attracting immigrants as they were in the 1950's. Nevertheless, the States along the eastern seaboard from Connecticut to Virginia, which include the greater part of "megalopolis," the metropolitan belt extending from Boston to Washington, continued to show increases well above the national average.

As a result of differences in rates of population growth, some States moved up in rank and others slipped to a lower position. Notable among such changes were the displacement of New York by California from the number one position, the ad-

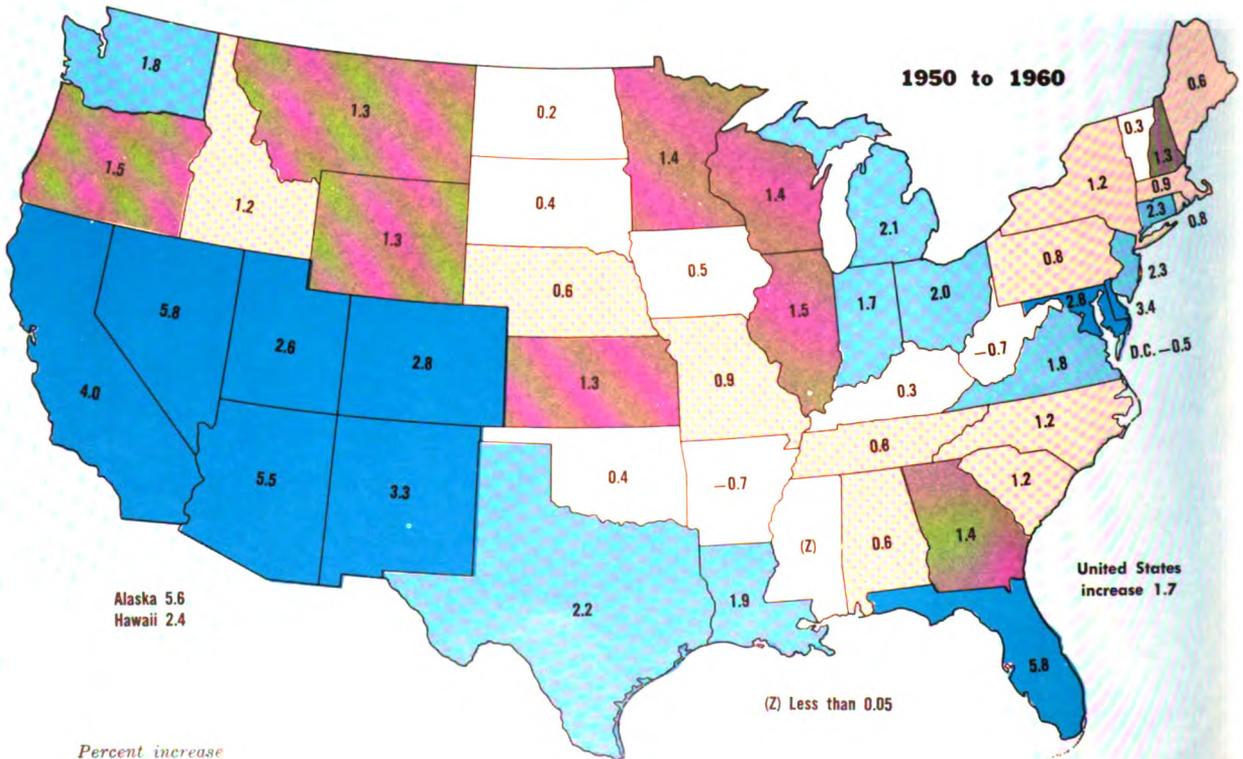
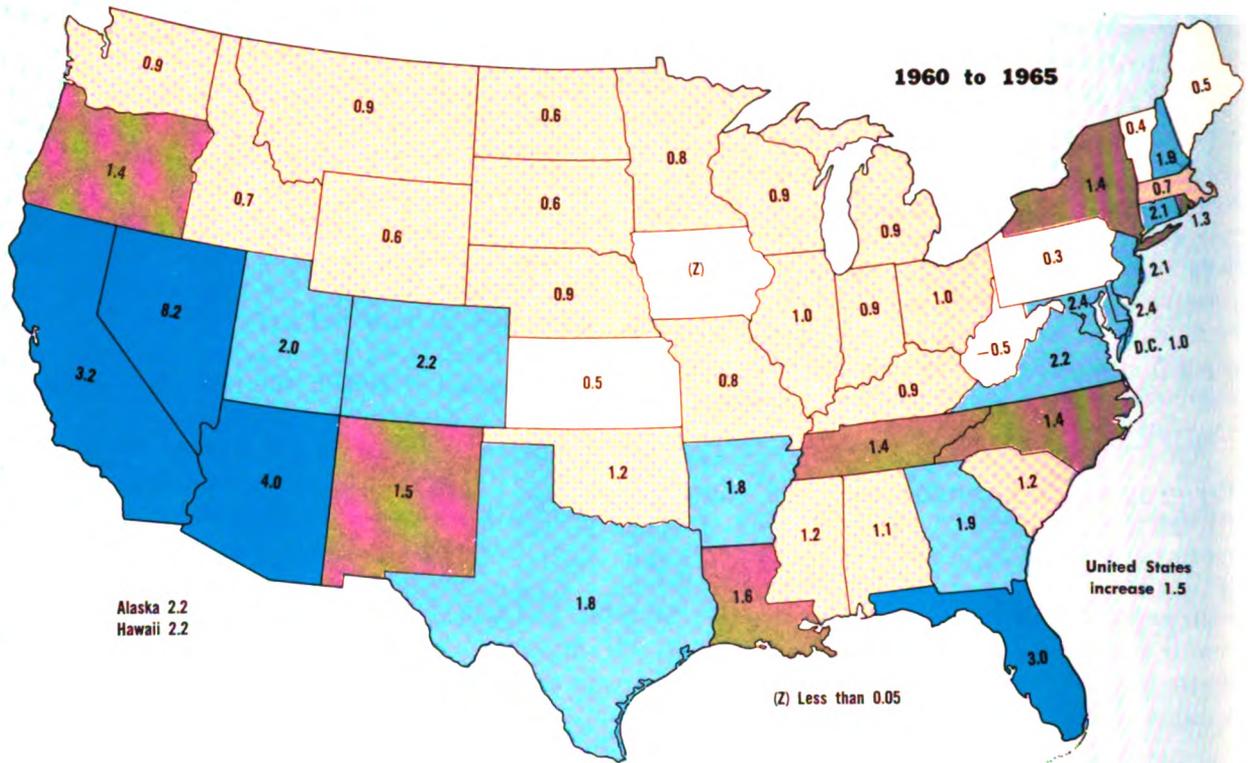
Age distribution of Negro and white population, March 1965

Figure 8



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, forthcoming report.

Average annual percent change in population by states



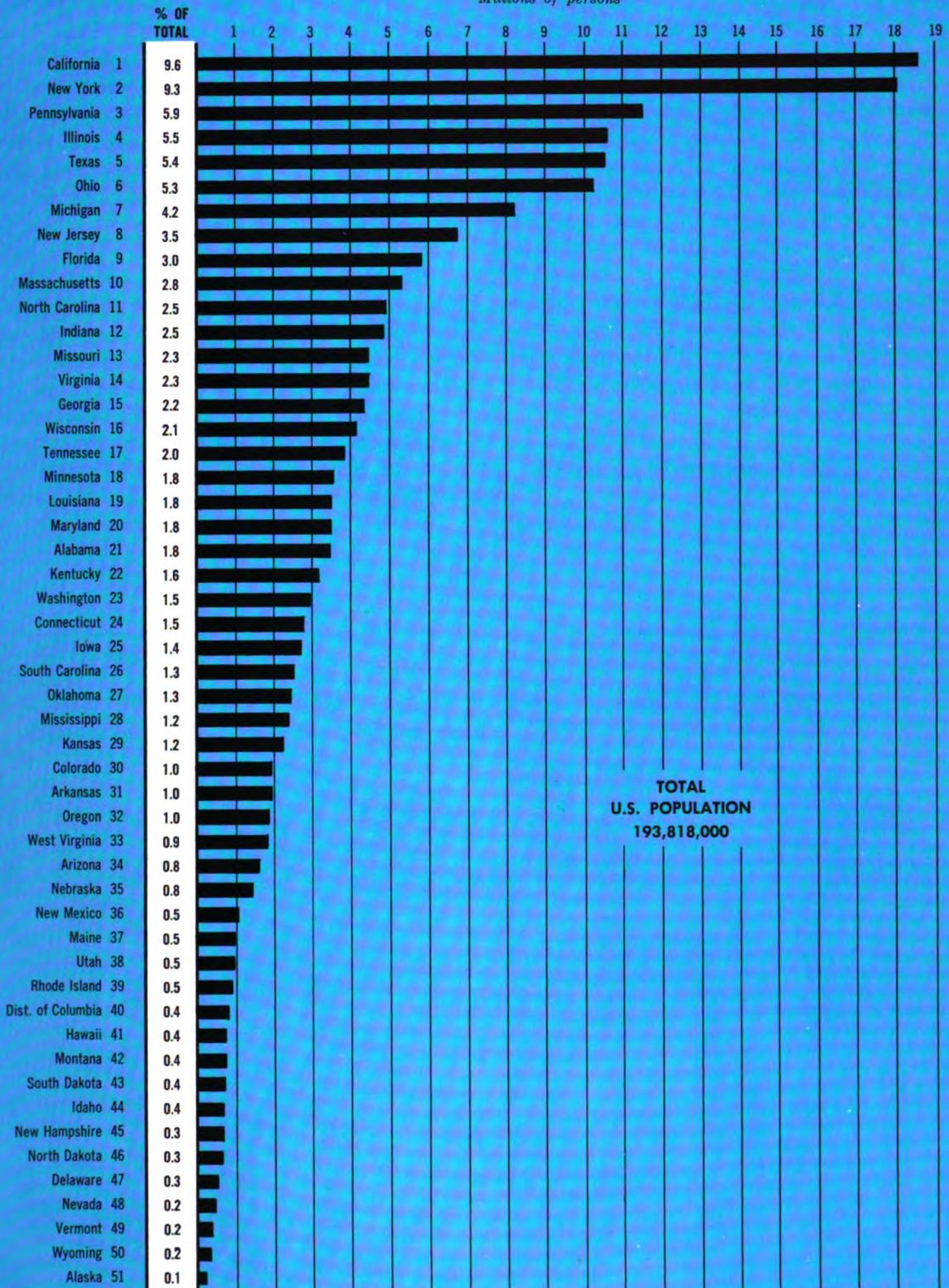
Percent increase

2.5 and over
 1.7 to 2.4
 1.3 to 1.6
 0.6 to 1.2
 Less than 0.6 or decrease

SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 304 and 317.

States ranked by population: 1965

Millions of persons



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 317.

vancement of Texas to fifth in size, displacing Ohio from that position, and the rise in rank of States in the southwest.

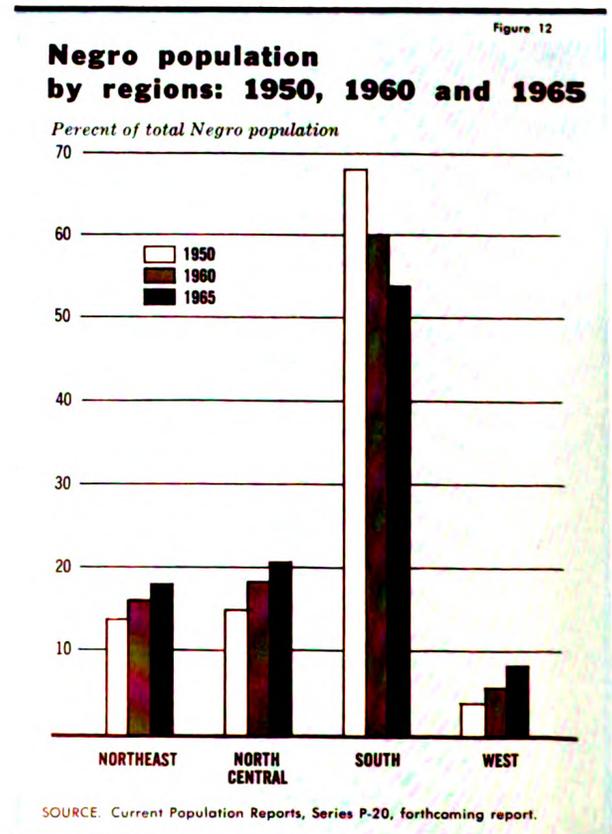
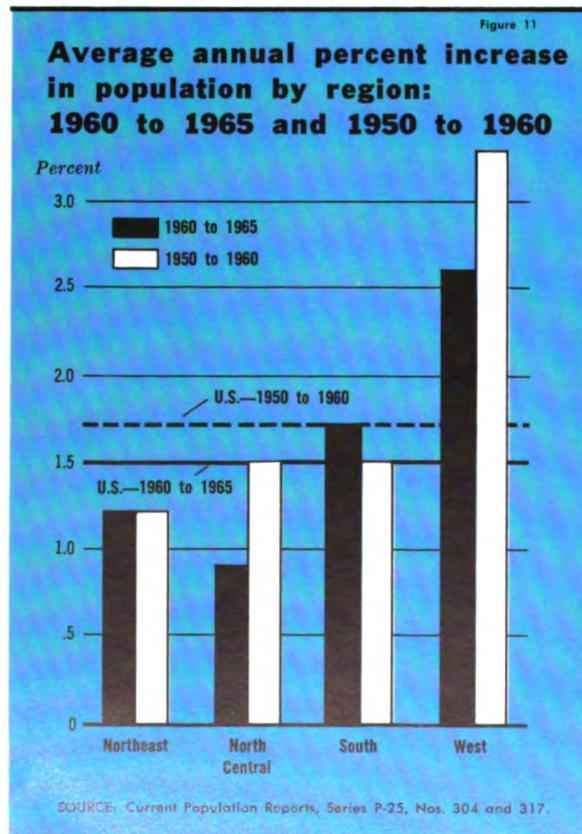
The rate of increase of the Negro population varied widely among regions, mainly because of interregional migration. The West showed the greatest gains in Negro population and the South the smallest. Whereas the Negro population for the country as a whole is estimated to have increased by approximately 11 percent, it showed little change in the South, and by contrast, increased by 24 percent in the Northeast, 23 percent in the North Central region, and 59 percent in the West. These changes represent an extension of trends observed during the 1950's. Consequently, the regional distribution of the Negro population is changing; whereas only one-third of the Negroes lived outside the South in 1950, that proportion is now approaching one-half.

Increase in Metropolitan Population

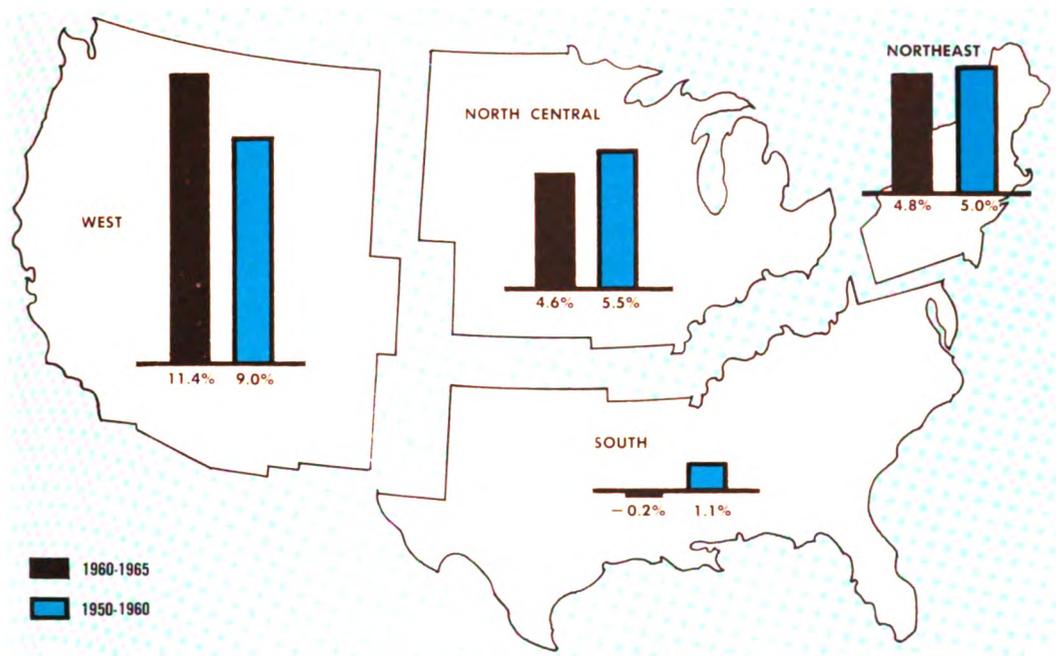
The bulk of the Nation's population growth

continued to be registered in its metropolitan areas. Among the 38 largest metropolitan areas, those which experienced the most rapid growth during the 1950's generally continued to be the fastest growing. Three areas in southern California, three in Texas, and two in Florida were among the dozen highest ranking large metropolitan areas in terms of growth rates. Four metropolitan areas passed the one million mark between 1960 and 1965, bringing to 26 the number of areas in that size class. Los Angeles replaced Chicago as the second largest metropolitan area.

The metropolitan population overall increased about twice as rapidly as the nonmetropolitan between 1960 and 1965, and the proportion of the population living in metropolitan areas (now more than 3 out of 5) continued its upward trend. Compared with the previous decade, however, there appears to be some slowing down of metropolitan growth, from an annual rate of 2.3 percent in the 1950's to 1.9 percent in the first half of the current decade. The contrast between the heavy gains in



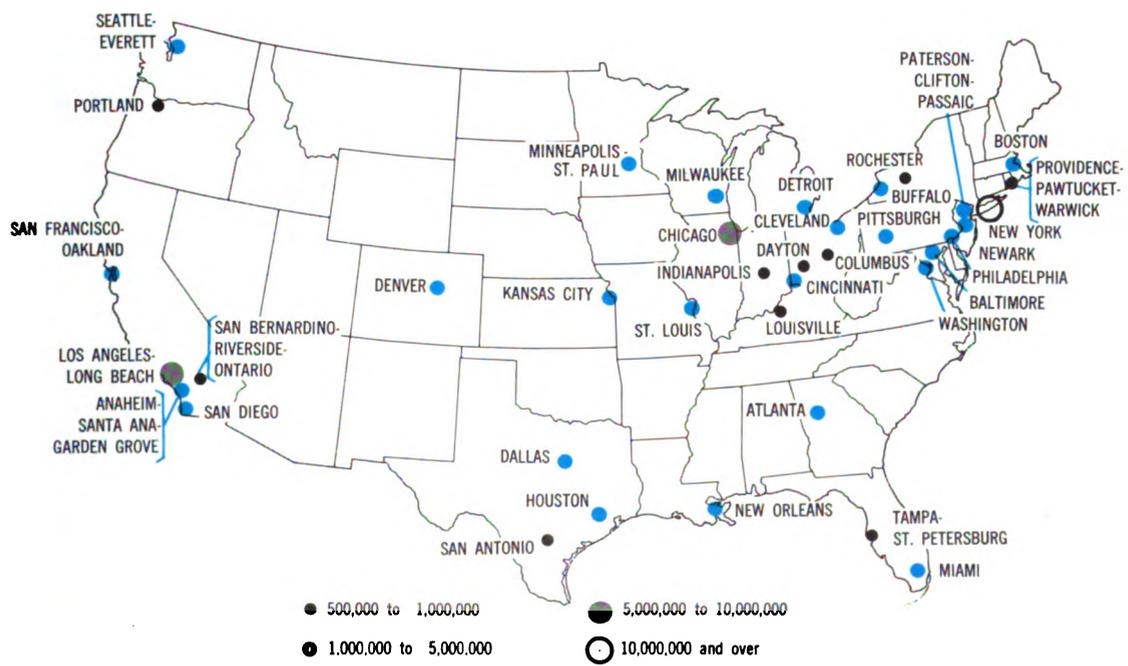
Negro population—average annual rate of increase: 1960-1965 and 1950-1960



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, forthcoming report.

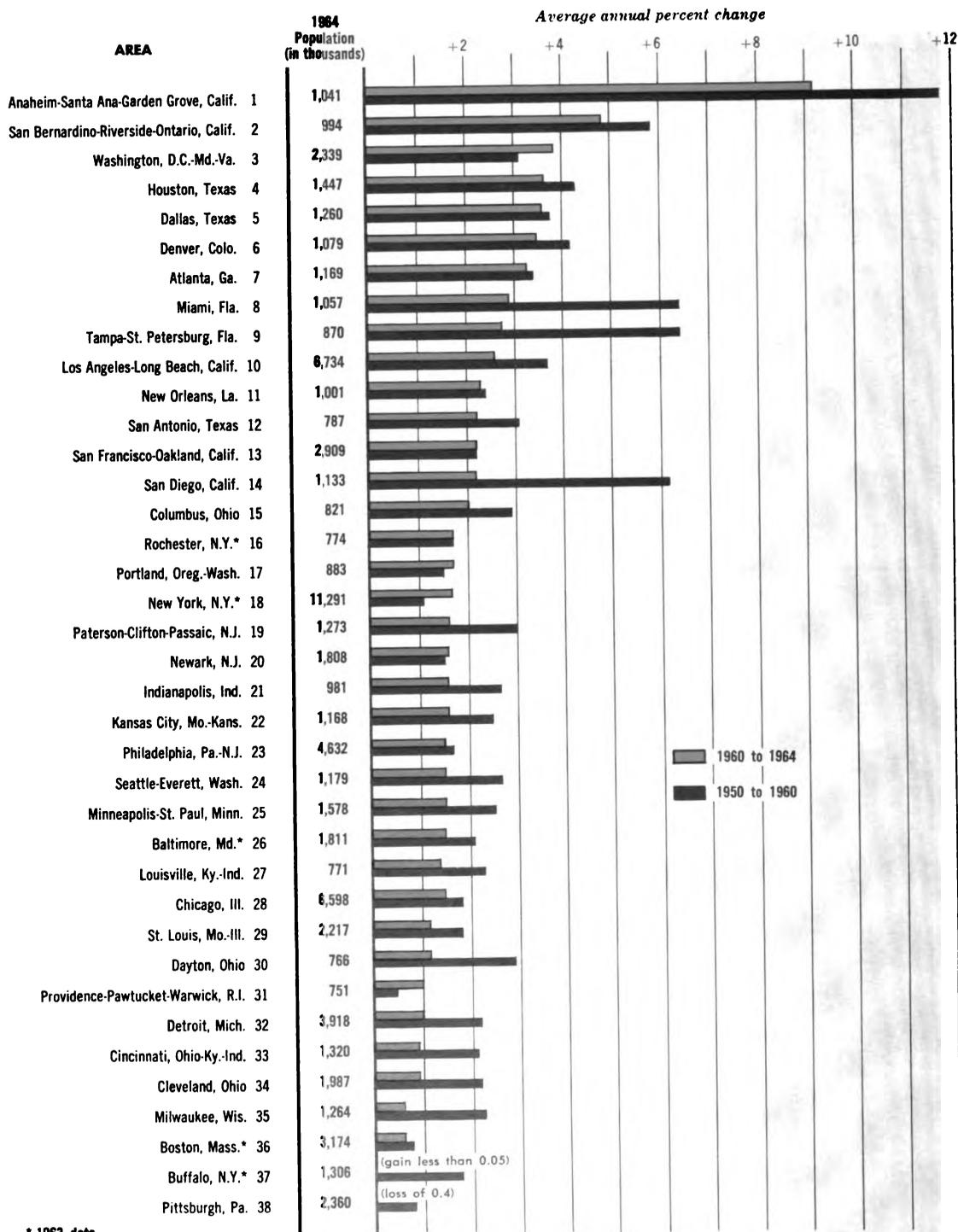
Figure 14

Population of the 38 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 298, 308, and 312.

38 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas ranked by percent change in population: 1960 to 1964



* 1963 data

SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 298, 308, and 312.

the outlying parts of the areas and the modest increases or decreases in the central cities has become somewhat less marked in the present decade, suggesting that the trend termed the "flight to the suburbs," which characterized the past two decades, may be losing some of its impetus.

Decline in Farm Population

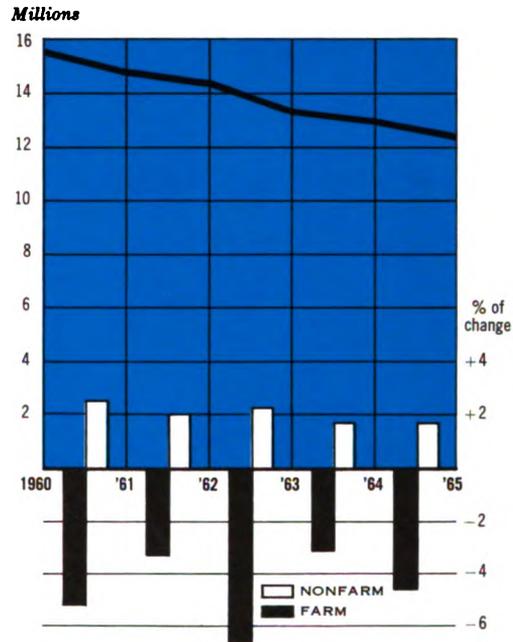
The nation's farm population, by contrast, continued to drop, decreasing about 21 percent during the 5-year period, while the nonfarm population increased by 10 percent. The 12 million persons now living on farms represent only about 6 percent of the total population. In 1960, the farm population had numbered 15.6 million, nearly 9 percent of the total.

Internal Migration

Phenomenal increases in population in some parts of the country, accompanied by a virtual lack of growth in others, reflect mass movements of the population from one State to another and from one region to another. These gains or losses

Decline in farm population 1960 to 1965

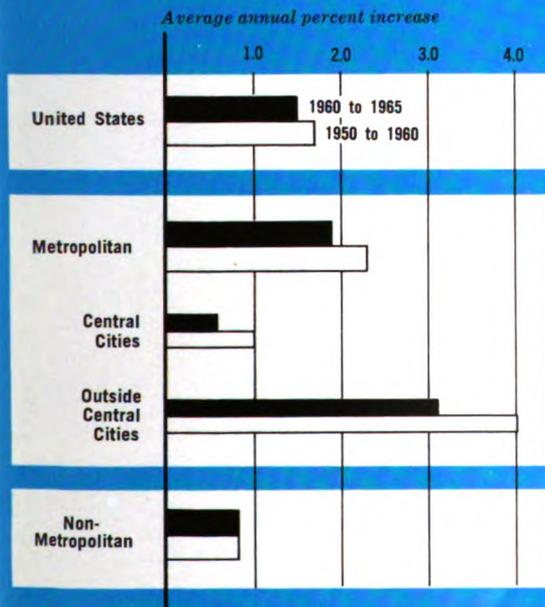
Figure 17



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series Census ERS (P-27), forthcoming report.

Increase in population by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan residence: 1960-65 and 1950-60

Figure 16



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 131, and unpublished estimates.



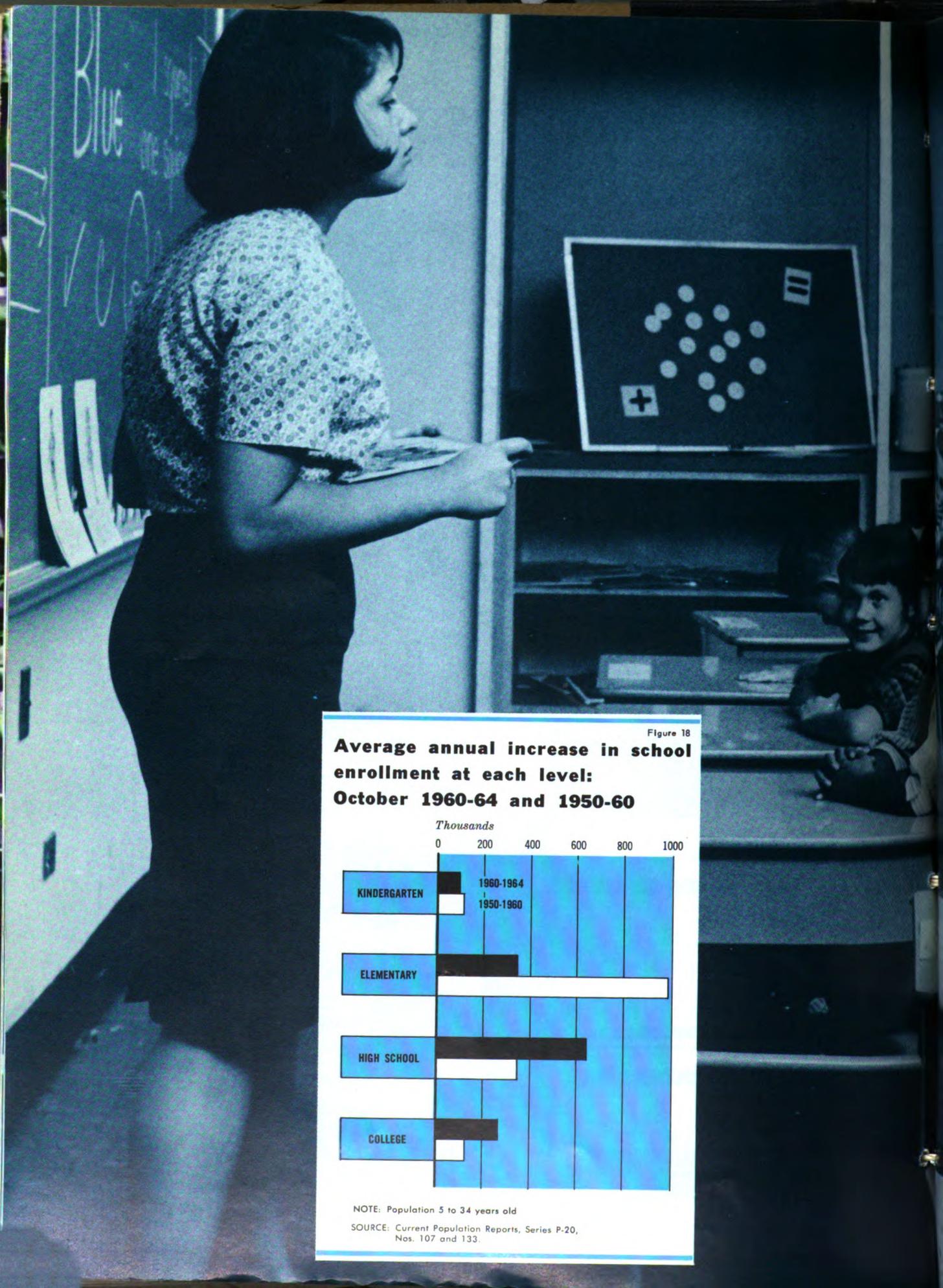
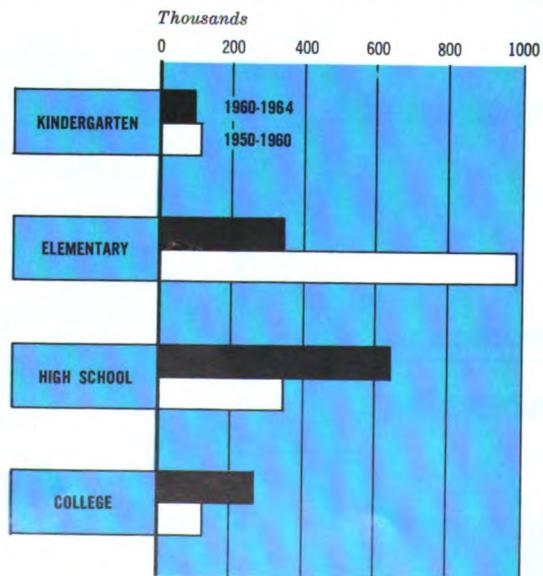


Figure 18

**Average annual increase in school enrollment at each level:
October 1960-64 and 1950-60**



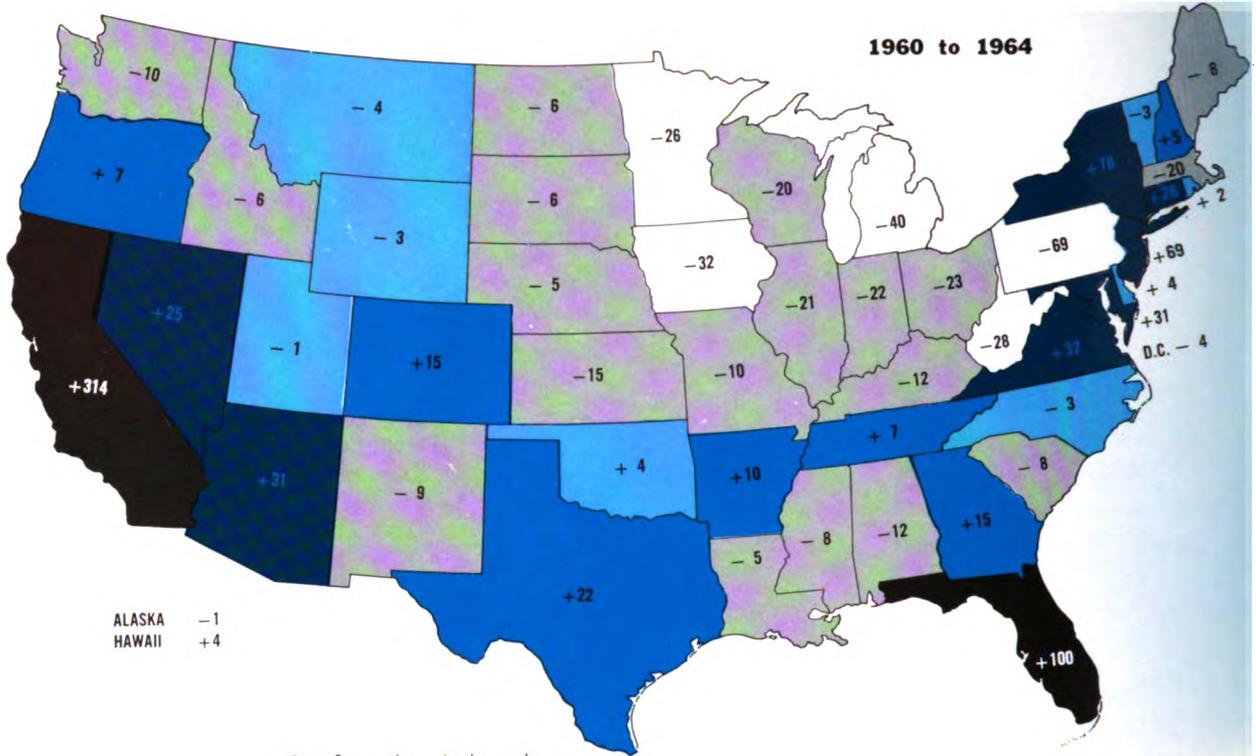
NOTE: Population 5 to 34 years old

SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20,
Nos. 107 and 133.



Figure 19

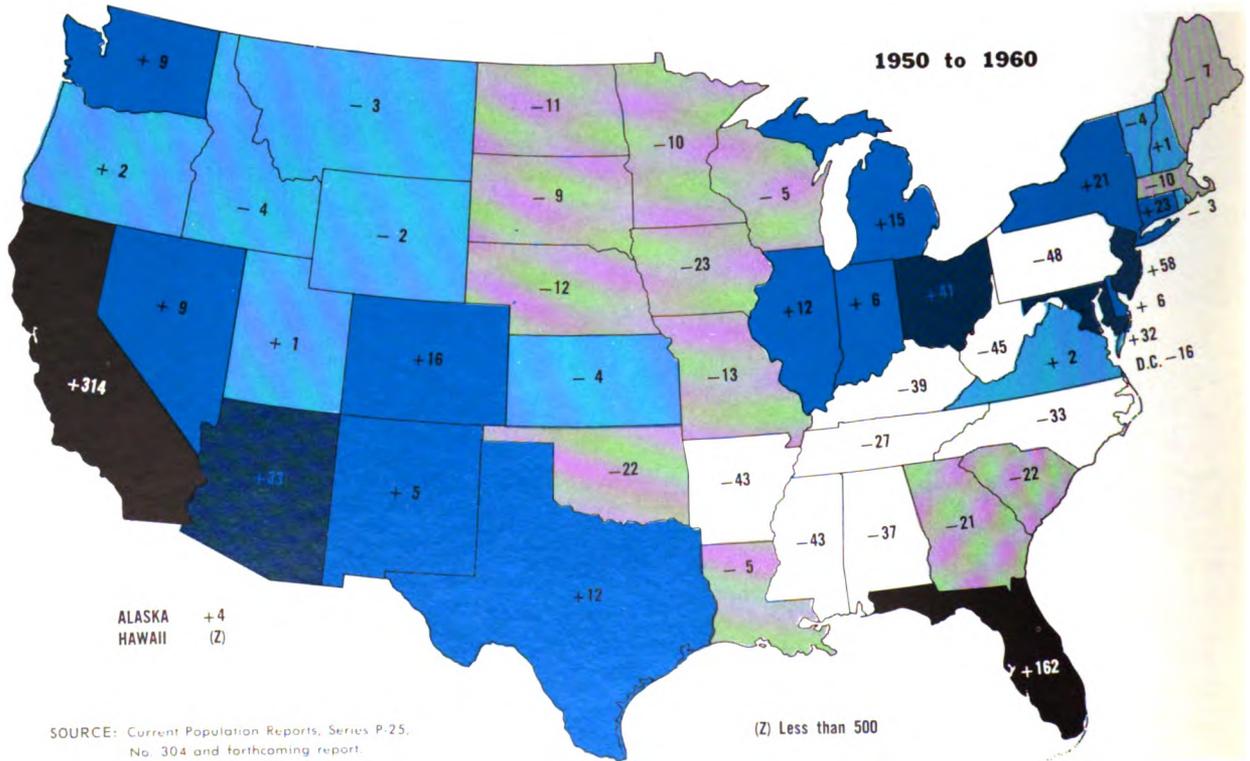
Average annual net total migration



ALASKA -1
HAWAII +4

State figures shown in thousands

- +100,000 and over
- +25,000 to +100,000
- +5,000 to +24,999
- +4,999 to -4,999
- 5,000 to -24,999
- 25,000 and over

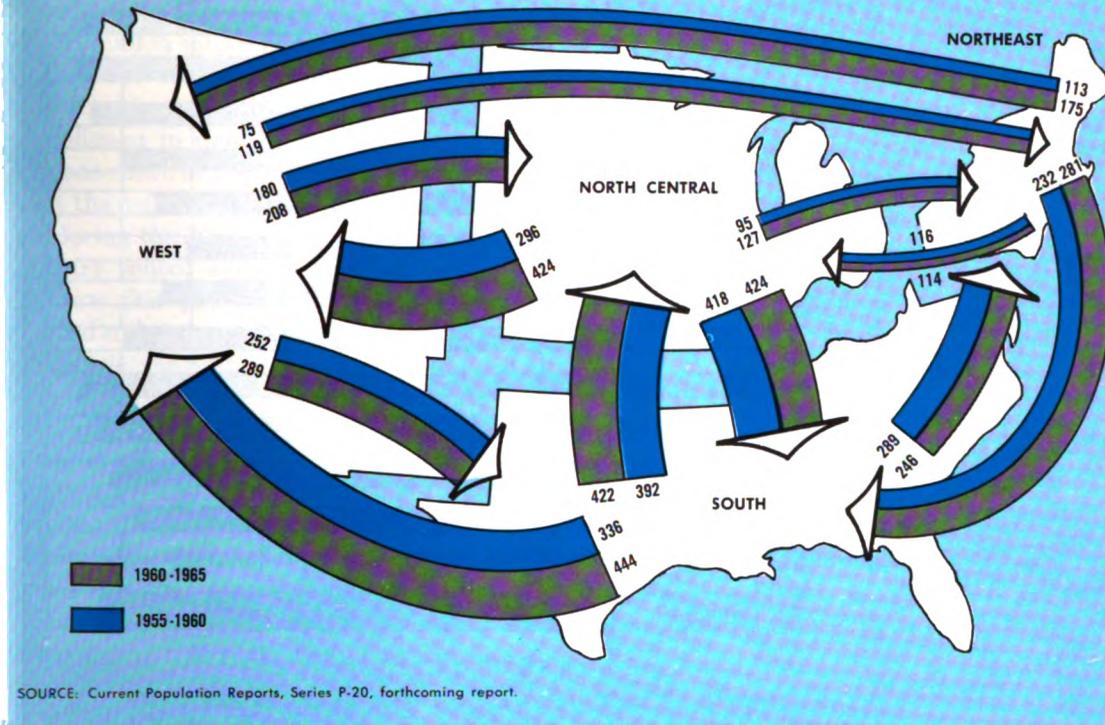


ALASKA +4
HAWAII (Z)

SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 304 and forthcoming report.

(Z) Less than 500

**Flow of migrants between regions,
annual average (thousands): 1960 to 1965 and 1955 to 1960**



in population through internal migration represent only the net effect of much greater relocations which affect many times the number of people.

About 6 million people moved between States during the 12 months from March 1964 to March 1965, and about half of these moves involved interregional migration. The volume and rate of migration reflected in these figures are typical of the pattern which has prevailed during the first half of the current decade and throughout the preceding decade of the 1950's. During the present decade, as in the 1950's, the West registered net gains from internal migration while the other regions lost population. An average of one million persons per year moved into the West from other regions while 600,000 migrated from the West, a ratio of 5 in-migrants to 3 out-migrants. Nearly a third of the total interregional migration had the West as its destination, with the largest streams of in-migrants coming from the South and the North Central regions.

Second in volume to the migration streams into the West were those between the North Central region and the South, which resulted in a virtually equal exchange of population between the two

regions. Movements between these two regions and the Northeast were smaller in volume but similar in nature in that they represented largely an exchange of population and produced only minor net gains or losses.

Patterns of net migration for States did not always follow that of the region in which they were located. Although the South as a whole lost population through migration, Maryland and Delaware had substantial gains, and Florida registered the second highest net in-migration in the country.

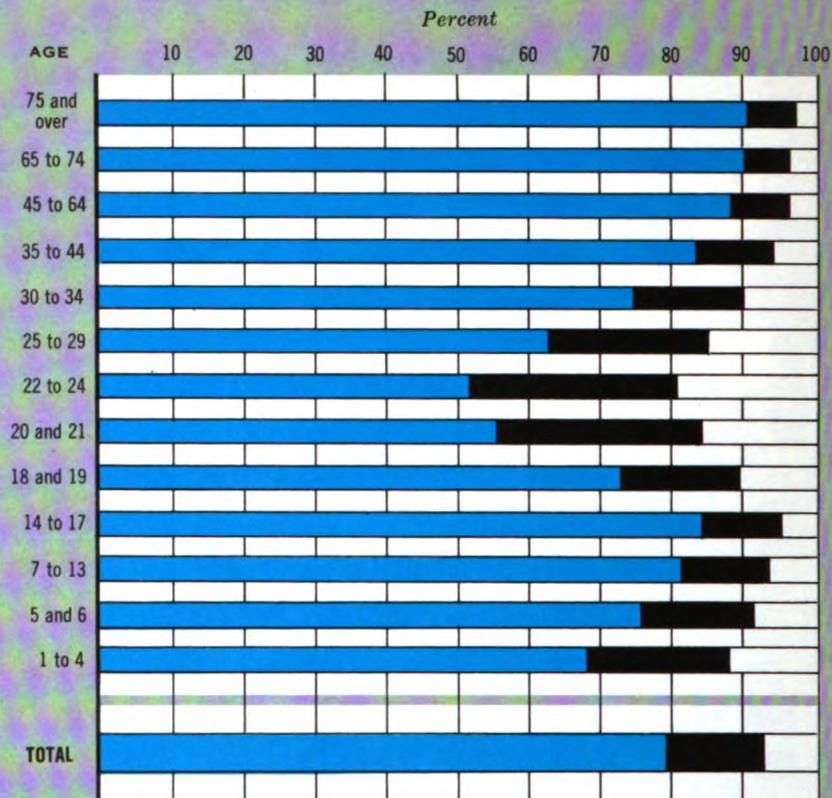
Some alteration in the migration pattern of the late fifties is apparent in the slight acceleration of population movement into the West during the current decade and lessening of the outward flow from the South to the Northeast.

Mobility of the Population

Moves between States and regions, however, were only a fraction of the total moves taking place within the country. From March 1964 to

Percent distribution by mobility status for persons 1 year old and over, for the United States: March, 1965

RESIDENCE A YEAR AGO
 SAME HOUSE ■
 DIFFERENT HOUSE SAME COUNTY ■
 DIFFERENT COUNTY ■



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, forthcoming report.

NOTE: "Different county" includes persons abroad a year ago.

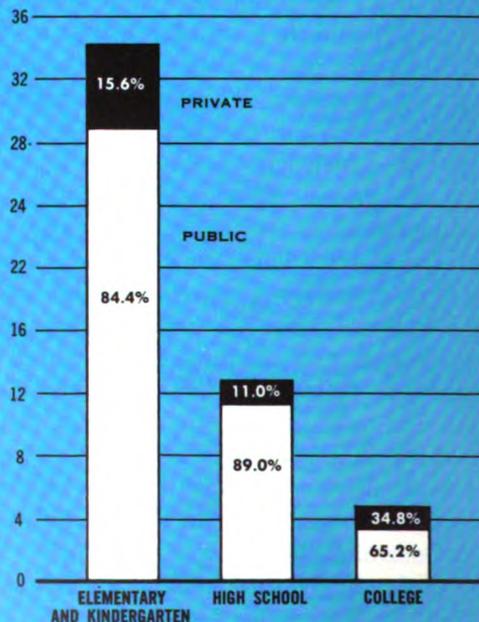
March 1965, 38 million persons changed their residence—one out of every 5 of the population. For most of these (about two-thirds), the change was only a local move that did not even cross county lines and may have been just from one house or apartment to another in the same community, thus representing only minor social adjustments in the lives of the people involved. The movers who crossed county lines, about 13 million, were about equally divided between those who went to a different State and those who moved to a new home within the same State. The relative volume of various types of moves has remained almost unchanged throughout the decade and a half that such information has been available. Young people in their twenties were the most mobile segment of the population. With advancing age the tendency to move decreased, and moves were only about one-fourth as frequent among persons above 45 years of age.

Increased Enrollment in Schools and Colleges

Increases in population were accompanied by

Enrollment in public and private schools: October 1964

Millions



NOTE: Population 5 to 34 years old.

SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 133 and forthcoming report.

growth in enrollment in the Nation's schools. School enrollment—kindergarten through college—increased 5.4 million from 1960 to 1964, an increase of one and one-third million a year. Most of the 56 million school children and college students in 1965 were enrolled in public schools, private schools accounting for about one-sixth of the enrollment in elementary school and kindergarten, one-ninth at the high school level, and one-third at the college level. Whereas the rates of increase during the 1950's had been greatest at the elementary school and kindergarten levels, the 1960's saw this phenomenon shift to the high school and college level. During the first four years of the decade, the country's high schools added an average of 640,000 students a year to their total enrollment, and its colleges enrolled 270,000 more students each year. Gains in elementary school enrollment averaged 350,000 annually, considerably below the average of nearly a million a year for the previous decade.

Added enrollment in the high schools and colleges, however, reflected more than mere increases in the population of those ages. There was an increasing tendency for young people to complete high school and to continue their education beyond the high school level. Consequently the proportion of young people in their late teens and early twenties who were enrolled in school increased. This trend, observed during the 1950's, has continued into the present decade.

The Nation's kindergartens, too, are growing. Kindergarten enrollment, less than a million in 1950, had grown to two million by 1960 and increased further to nearly 2.5 million by October 1964. More than two-thirds of the children 5 years of age were enrolled in kindergarten in the fall of 1964, compared with one-half in 1950.

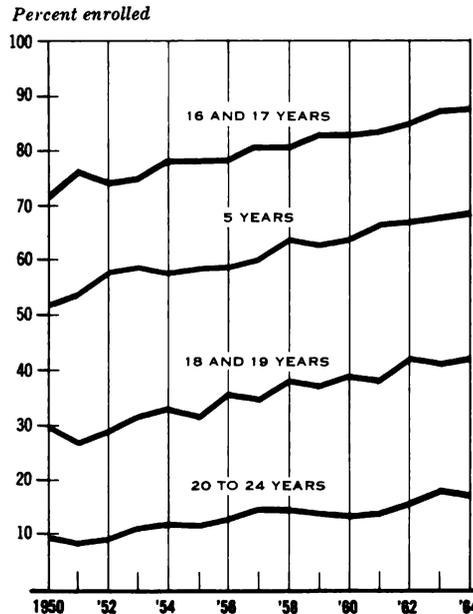
Greater Educational Attainment

Increased school attendance at the high school and college levels led to a rise in the overall level of attainment in education for the Nation's population. In the early 1950's about 40 percent of the white adult population (25 years old and over) and 14 percent of the nonwhite adults were high school graduates. By the end of the decade, the proportions were 45 percent and 20 percent; and by 1965 they had risen to 51 percent and 29 percent. During the same 15-year period, the number of college graduates nearly doubled.

Although the nonwhite population as well as

Percent enrolled in school for selected ages: October 1950 to 1964

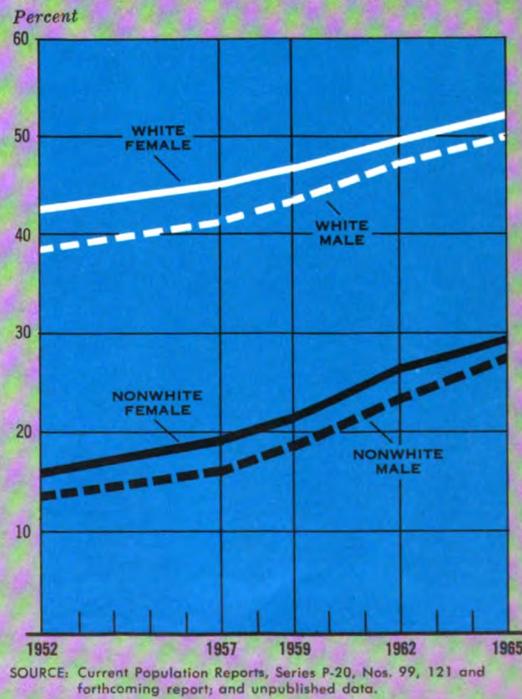
Figure 23



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 129, 133 and forthcoming report.

Persons 25 years old and over who have completed 4 years of high school or more: 1952 - 1965

Figure 24



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 99, 121 and forthcoming report; and unpublished data.

Median school years completed by the white and Negro population: March 1965

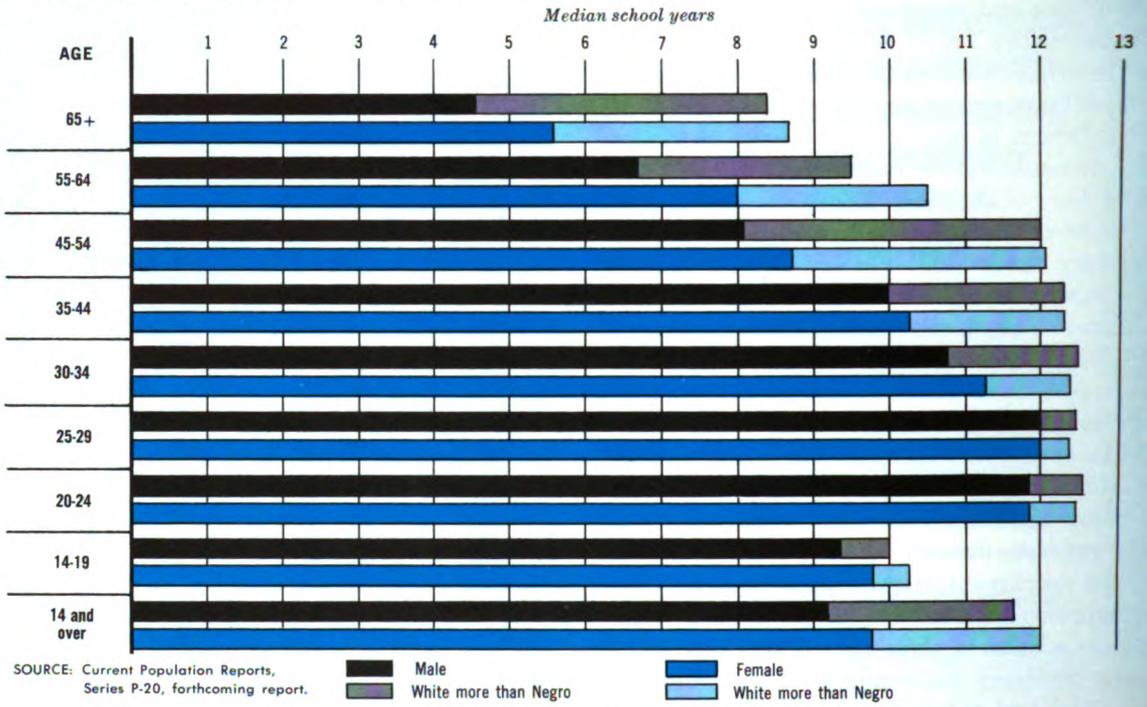
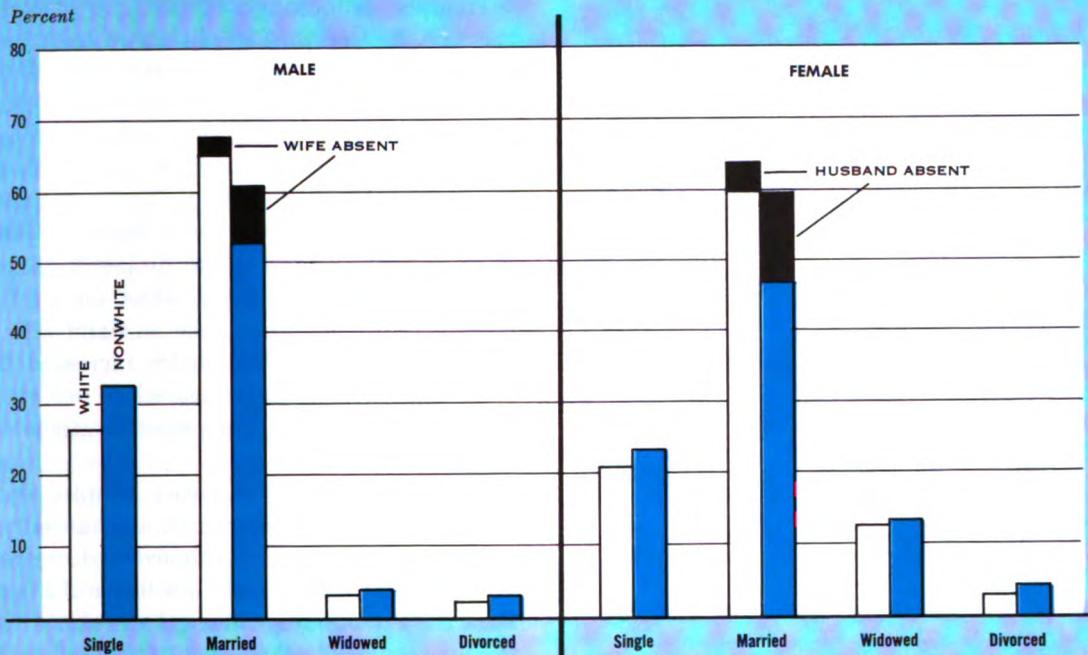


Figure 26

Marital status by color and sex: 1965



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 144.

the white showed gains in education, the gap between educational levels of the two races persisted. The 1965 figure of 29 percent of nonwhite adults with a high school education was still well below the level the white population had reached in 1952.

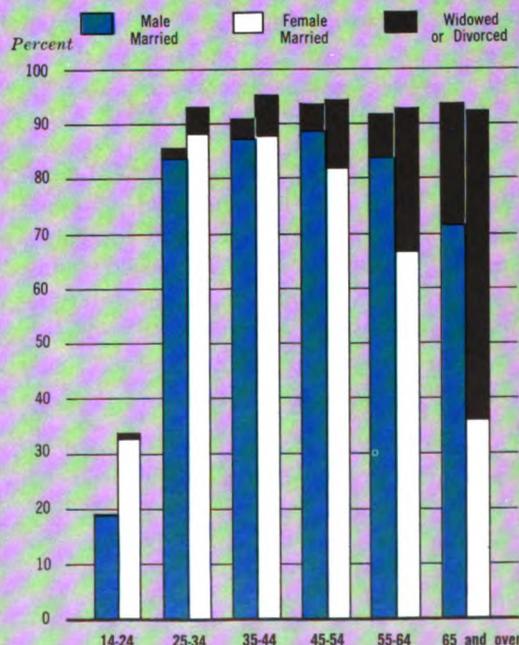
At the younger adult ages, these differences were less striking. A look at the Negro population shows that the median level of education (half were below this level and half had gone beyond) was from 2 to 4 years lower for Negroes than for the white population at ages above 35 years; but below age 35, the differences narrowed to one year or less for most ages.

Marital Status

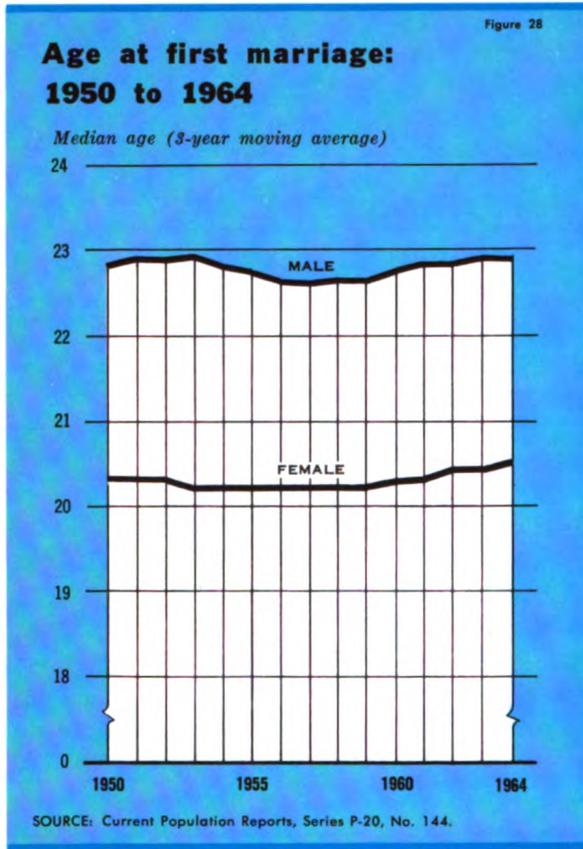
Two out of three persons 14 years old and over in the United States in 1965 were married. Of the remaining third, some had been married and were now widowed or divorced and some had never married. Most of the latter were in the age group 14 to 24 years old. In this young age group, one-third of the women were married but only one-fifth of the men. Above age 35, 90 to 95 percent

Figure 27

Marital status by age and sex: 1965



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 144.



of the population at each age were or had been married. Beginning with age 55, the proportion of women who were widowed increased rapidly, but a similar increase in proportion of widowed men did not occur until after age 65.

There were important differences in the marital status of the white and nonwhite population. Relatively fewer nonwhites were married, and among the married there was greater likelihood that the married couple would not be living together. One out of five nonwhite married women were living apart from their husbands, but only 1 out of 20 white women were in this situation.

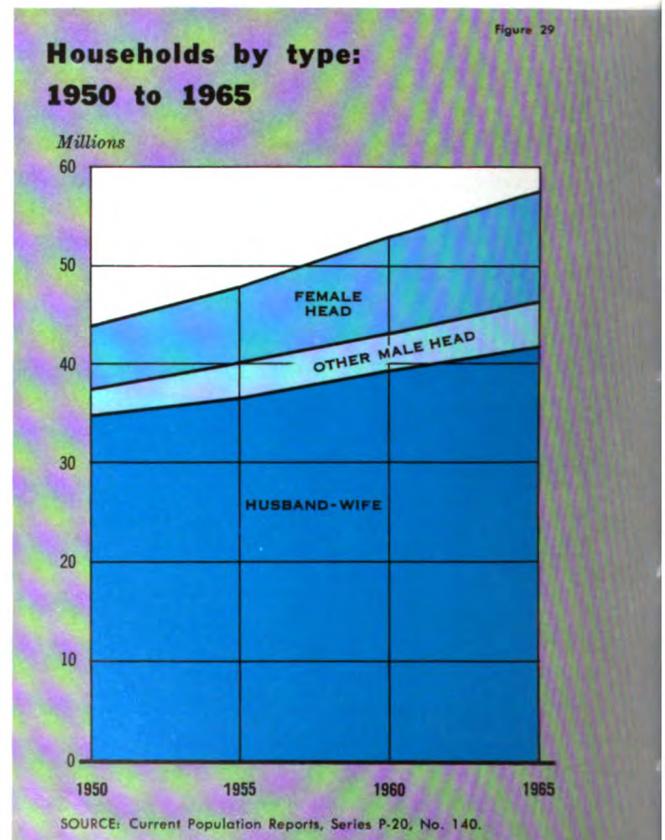
The trend toward younger marriages, which characterized the 1940's and early fifties, slowed somewhat after the midfifties. In 1950, half the women had married by the time they had reached age 20.3 years. The median age declined further to 20.1 years by 1956. Then followed a gradual rise which has persisted into the present decade, bringing the average age at marriage for women to 20.3 years in 1960 and 20.6 years in 1965.

Change in Number and Types of Households

Households increased 900,000 per year during the first half of the decade, more than keeping pace with the growing population. The 57.3 million households in 1965 included 41.6 million with a head and wife present, 6 million containing other types of families, and 9.5 million in which the household head had no family present but lived alone or with persons not related to him.

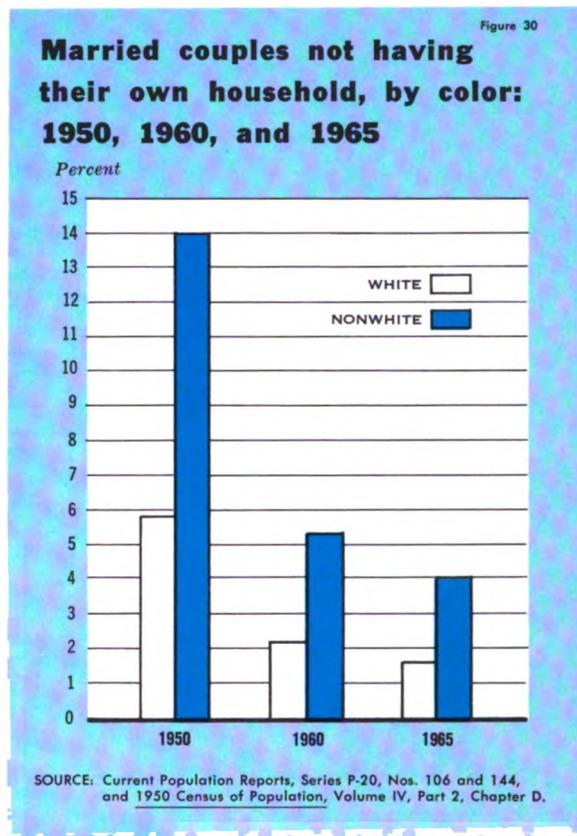
From 1960 to 1965, as in the previous decade, the rate of increase was greatest among households other than those of the husband-wife type. While husband-wife households increased 6 percent, other households increased 16 percent; and in the latter group, one-person households increased 25 percent.

The proportion of married couples without their own household decreased substantially during the 1950's and has continued to decrease during the 1960's, reaching the low figure of 2 percent. Relatively more nonwhites than whites shared the households of others.



By age 25, most adults had established their own households; and, throughout the middle adult years, the vast majority were married household heads or wives. As age advanced, increasing numbers, especially among women, became widowed and either remained in their own homes as heads with no spouse, or gave up their households and moved in with relatives or into rooming houses or homes for the aged. With the help of various programs of assistance for the aged, many were able to continue maintaining their own homes; and in 1965 approximately half of those 75 years old and over who had no spouse were still heads of their own households.

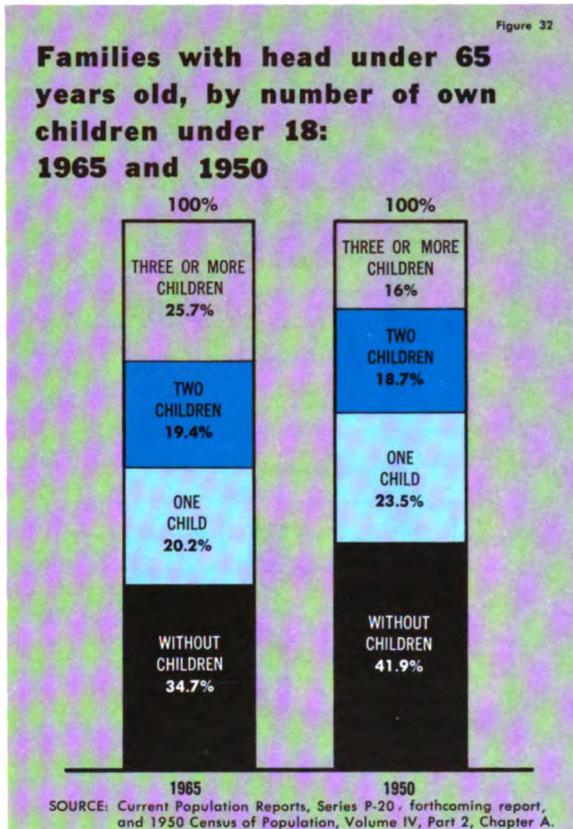
The increase in one-person households and other households with no family tended to reduce the average size of households. On the other hand, the trend toward larger families tended to increase the size of those households containing families, and the net effect was that average household size remained quite stable throughout the 1950's and the first half of the present decade.



Household status of the population 14 years old and over, by age and sex: 1965

Figure 31





More Children Per Family

In those families in which the head was under 65 years old, two out of three had children (one or more sons or daughters under 18). Between 1950 and 1965, the proportion of families with no children declined substantially while the proportion with 3 or more children rose from 1 out of 6 to 1 out of 4. Nonwhite families in the same age span were similar to white families in that the same proportion, 1 out of 3, had no children. A greater proportion of the nonwhite families, however, had 4 or more children, indicating that among families with children nonwhite families tend to be larger.

The first half of the decade showed a continuation of the upward trend in the number of children born to American women. Women 25 to 34 years old in 1964 had already borne nearly as many children on the average as those 35 to 44 years old, although they had more years to go before reaching the end of childbearing. They are expected to average 3,200 to 3,400 children per 1,000

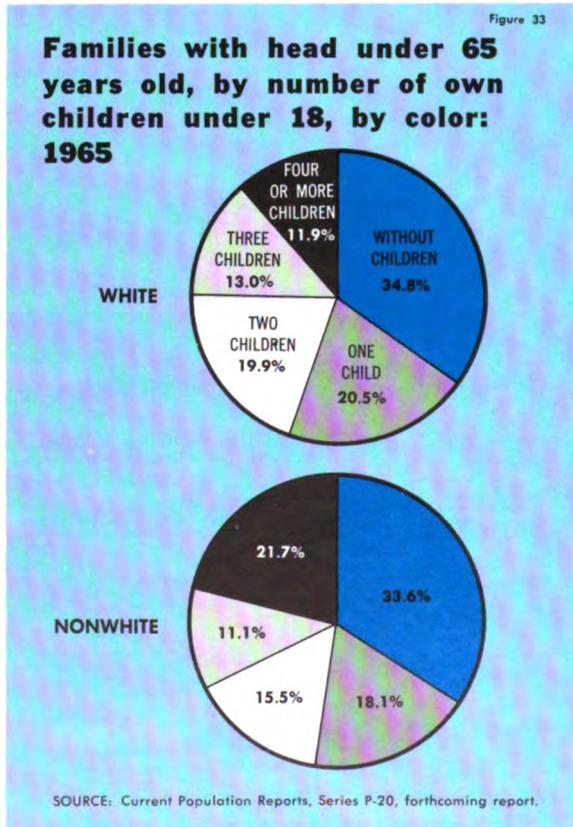
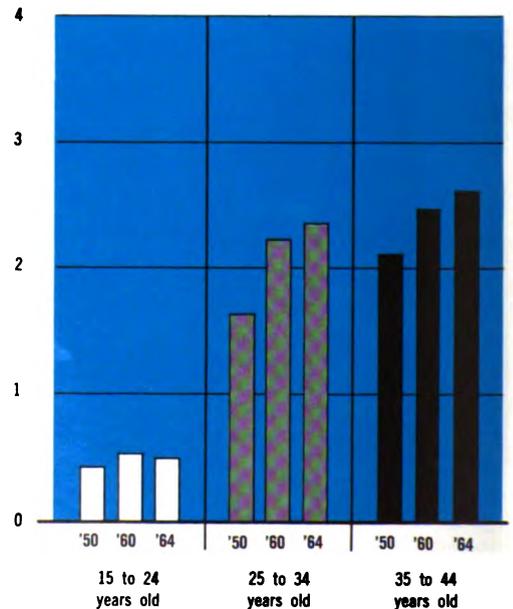


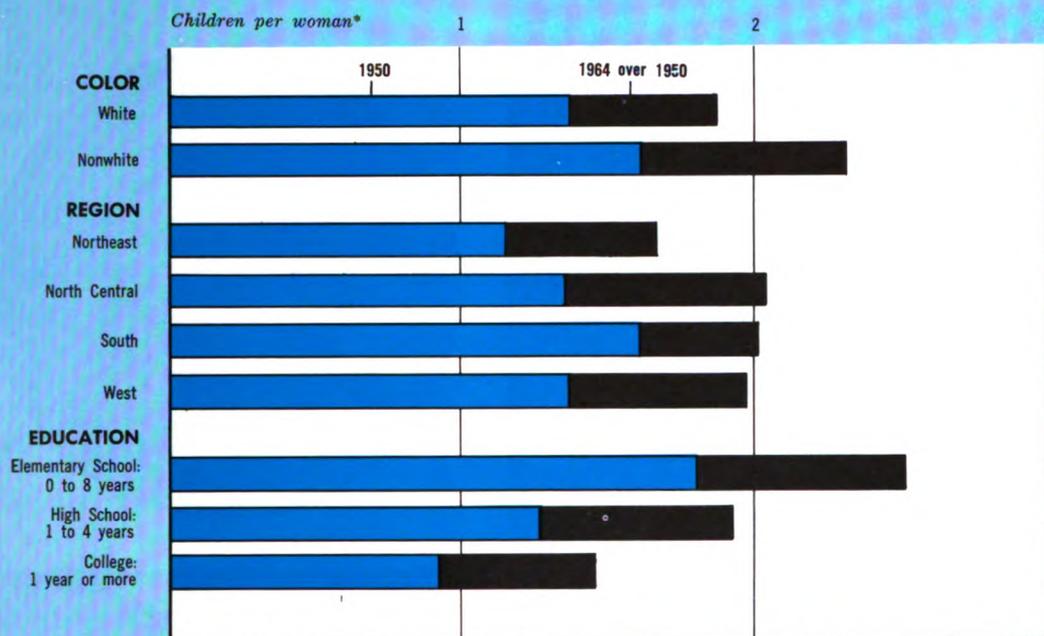
Figure 34

Children ever born per woman, by age: 1950, 1960 and 1964



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, forthcoming report.

Children ever born, by characteristics of woman: 1950 and 1964



* Women 15 to 44 years old; data standardized for age.

SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, forthcoming report.

women by age 45—about 50 percent more than is needed to replace the population.

The pattern of change in number of children born to women 15 to 24 years old reflects some slowdown in early marriage and childbearing since 1960, but it is too early to say whether this means that women in this cohort will have fewer children as they pass through life than women in some older cohorts.

Rates of childbearing were different for women of different races, educational levels, and regions or types of residence. Nonwhite women had more children than white women, and farm women had more than nonfarm women. Women living in the Northeast had lower rates than women in any of the other regions. The North Central region and the West, which were well below the South in 1960, had greater increases during the period; and by 1964 these two regions had rates that were close to those for the South. Women with higher educational attainment had fewer children on the average and also registered smaller increases in childbearing between 1950 and 1964 than women with less education.

Growing Labor Force

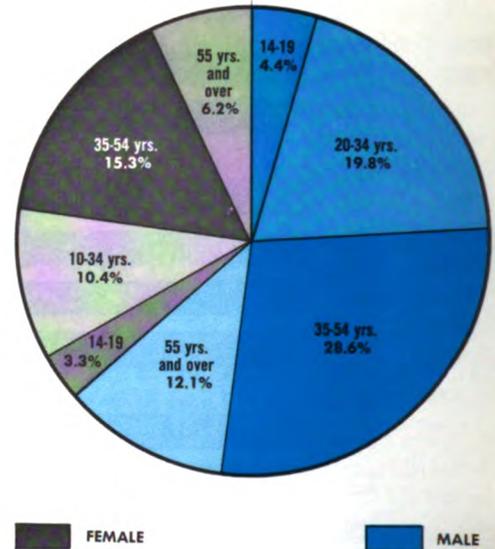
By March of 1965, the civilian labor force had reached a total of 74 million persons, a gain of about one million a year since 1960. Half of the 1965 labor force were men 20 to 54 years of age; one-third were women; and one-sixth were boys below age 20 or men over 54.

About 77 percent of the male population 14 years old and over and 37 percent of the female population of that age were members of the labor force—that is, they had jobs or were looking for work. Relatively fewer young men were in the labor force, partly because of a tendency to continue education longer and partly because of the decreasing opportunities for the unskilled to enter the labor force. Because of more comprehensive Social Security and welfare programs for older people, men are less likely now to continue working beyond age 65. The decline in self-employment, also, has contributed to earlier retirement, because a self-employed person has more chance of continuing to work, sometimes on a reduced basis, than a salaried worker, who is more likely to have to make a break. Thus, the steady decline



Civilian labor force by age and sex: March 1965

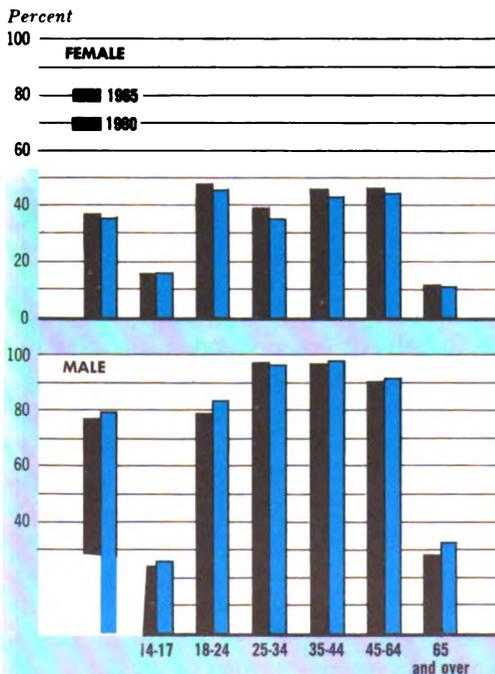
Figure 36



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Earnings*, Vol. 11, No. 10.

Percent in labor force by age and sex: March 1965 and 1960

Figure 37



Labor Statistics, *Employment and Earnings*, Vol. 10, and Vol. 11, No. 10.

in labor force participation for the Nation's male population continued into the present decade. For women, on the other hand, there has been a long-term trend toward greater labor force participation, and this trend is reflected in the labor force data for all except the extremes of the age range. For the same reasons observed for men, women in the oldest and youngest ages were less likely to be in the labor force in 1965 than in 1960.

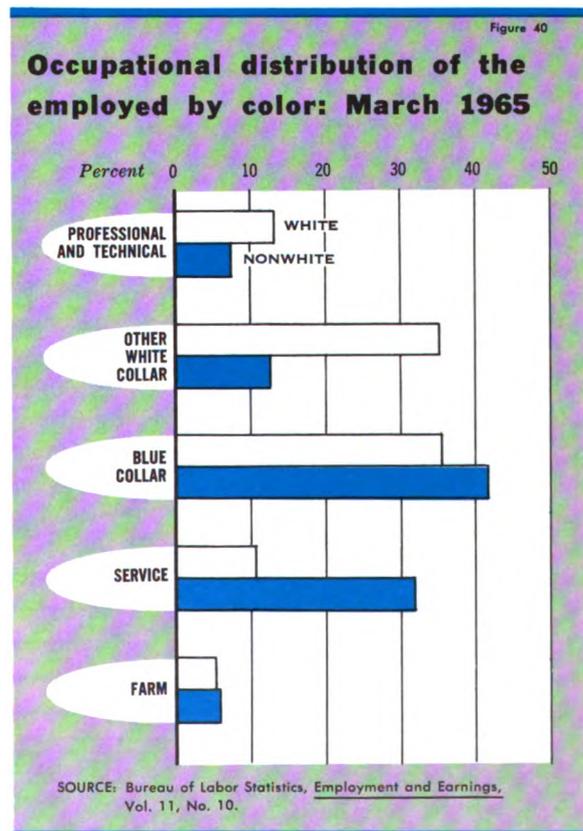
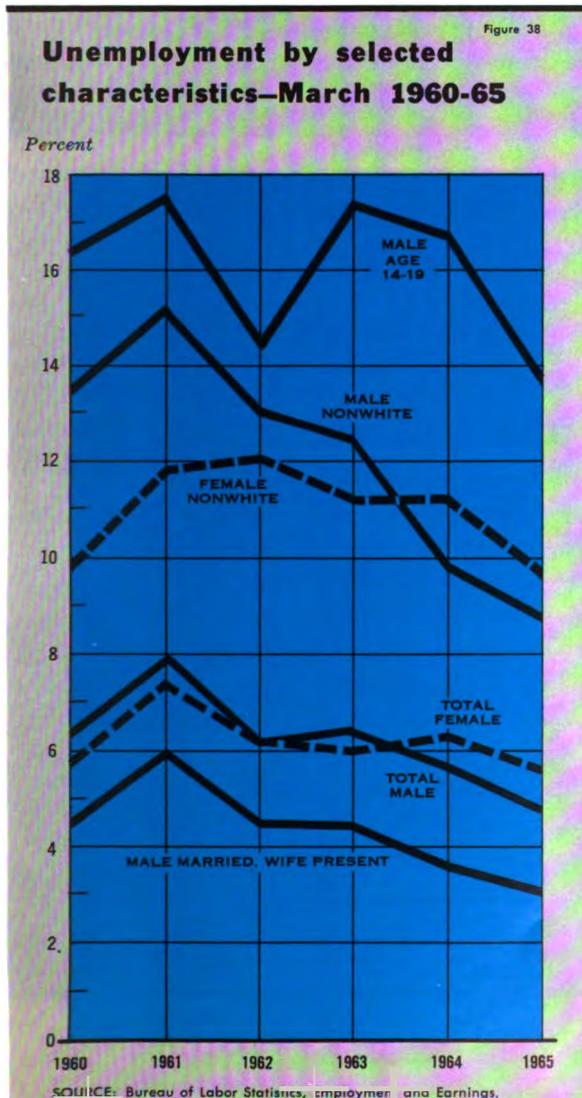
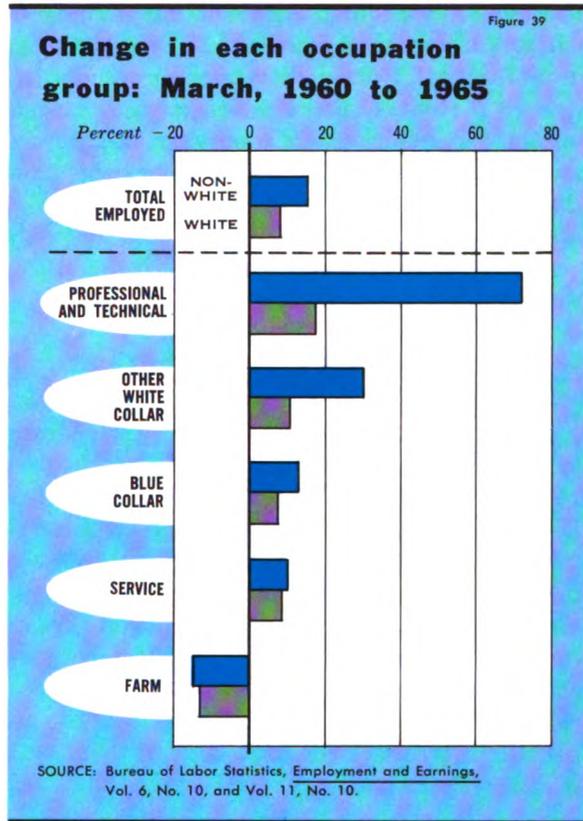
Lower Unemployment Rate

Unemployment affected about 5 percent of the country's labor force in March 1965. This represented a considerable reduction from the level of nearly 8 percent in March 1961. Unemployment has continued to affect some groups more seriously than others. Although employment rates have improved substantially since 1960 for nonwhite men, nonwhites still had considerably greater unemployment than whites. For young people just entering the labor force, who traditionally have high unemployment, rates remained high in the present decade. Unemployment for women did

not decrease as much as for men, and in 1965 there were relatively more unemployed women than men. In 1960, unemployment had been greater for men.

More Professional and Technical Workers

Advances in technology and automation during the 1950's brought about changes in the distribution of workers among the various types of occupations, with increasing proportions of the country's employed going into professional and technical occupations and smaller proportions into blue collar and farm occupations. For the work force as a whole, these changes had lost some of their potential and continued at a slackened pace in the current decade. For nonwhite workers, however, the rise in number of white-collar jobs



was especially striking. While the total number of employed nonwhites increased 15 percent, those in professional, technical, and similar occupations rose 73 percent. Other white-collar jobs, including those of managers and proprietors and clerical and sales personnel, increased 30 percent. Less than 4 percent of all nonwhite workers were in professional and technical jobs in 1950 and only 5 percent in 1960. But between 1960 and 1965, this proportion rose to 8 percent.

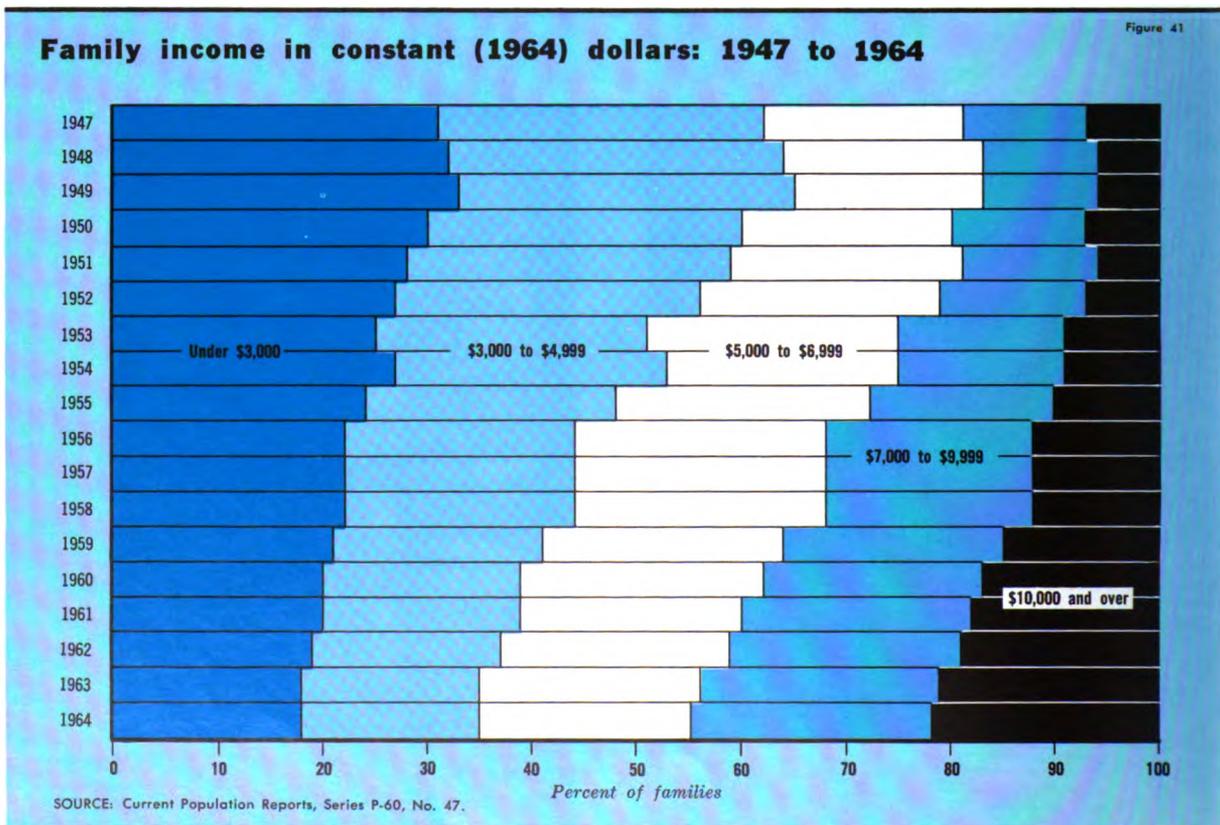
Higher Family Income

Except for a few minor recessions, the country has experienced continued prosperity for the past 20 years. Since 1950, family incomes have doubled. Rises in consumer prices have absorbed some of this increase, but there has nevertheless been a substantial increase in real purchasing power. If the amounts are expressed in constant dollars (figures adjusted to remove the effect of price changes), there was still a 53 percent rise in average (median) family income during the 14-year period. In terms of constant dollars, there were relatively fewer families at the lower income levels

and more at the upper levels. Incomes over \$10,000 were reported by only 7 percent of the families in 1949, but by 15 percent in 1959, and 22 percent in 1964. Conversely, 65 percent of all families had incomes under \$5,000 in 1949, but only 41 percent in 1959, and 35 percent in 1964 were below that amount.

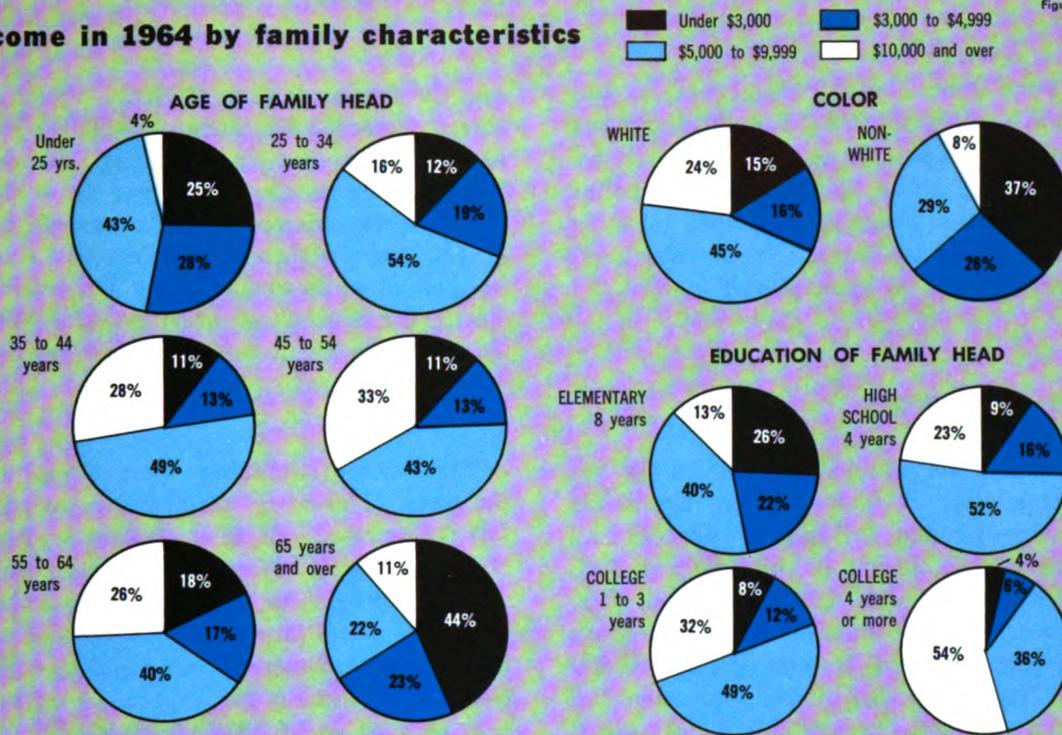
High and Low-Income Families

Family income in 1965 showed little evidence of any change in the inequalities in distribution of aggregate income among families at various income levels. At the highest level, \$15,000 and over, were only 6 percent of the families, with 19 percent of the income; and, at the opposite extreme, under \$2,000, were nearly 10 percent of all families, with less than 2 percent of the income. If families are divided into fifths from the lowest to the highest income, the lowest fifth received only one-twentieth (5 percent) of the total income, whereas the top fifth received two-fifths (41 percent). These relationships have stayed remarkably constant throughout the 1960's and the preceding decade.



Income in 1964 by family characteristics

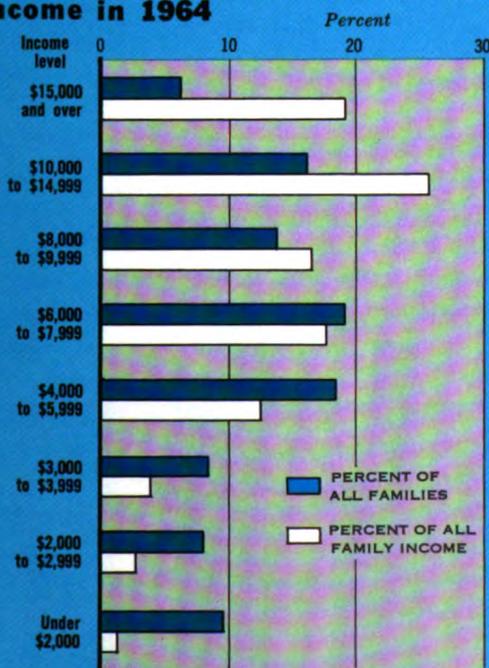
Figure 42



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 47.

Distribution of families and income by level of family income in 1964

Figure 43



SOURCE: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 47.

There is a recurring pattern, too, in the characteristics associated with high and low income. Income was below average for young families (with the head under 25 years old) but even lower for families in which the head was over 65, the usual age for retirement. Families in the middle age groups had the highest incomes. Families whose head was a high school graduate had incomes nearly \$2,000 greater than those whose head had only an elementary school education; and if the family head was a college graduate, the family income was \$2,500 greater on the average than if he had only finished high school. Families whose heads were professionals, technicians, company officials, etc., were at the upper end of the income scale, whereas families of farm workers and persons employed in private households were at the lowest extremes. The lower incomes of nonwhite families compared with white families were associated with their lower level of educational attainment and their concentration in lower paid occupations.

Some families had low incomes because the family head worked only part time and some because there was no worker in the family and the

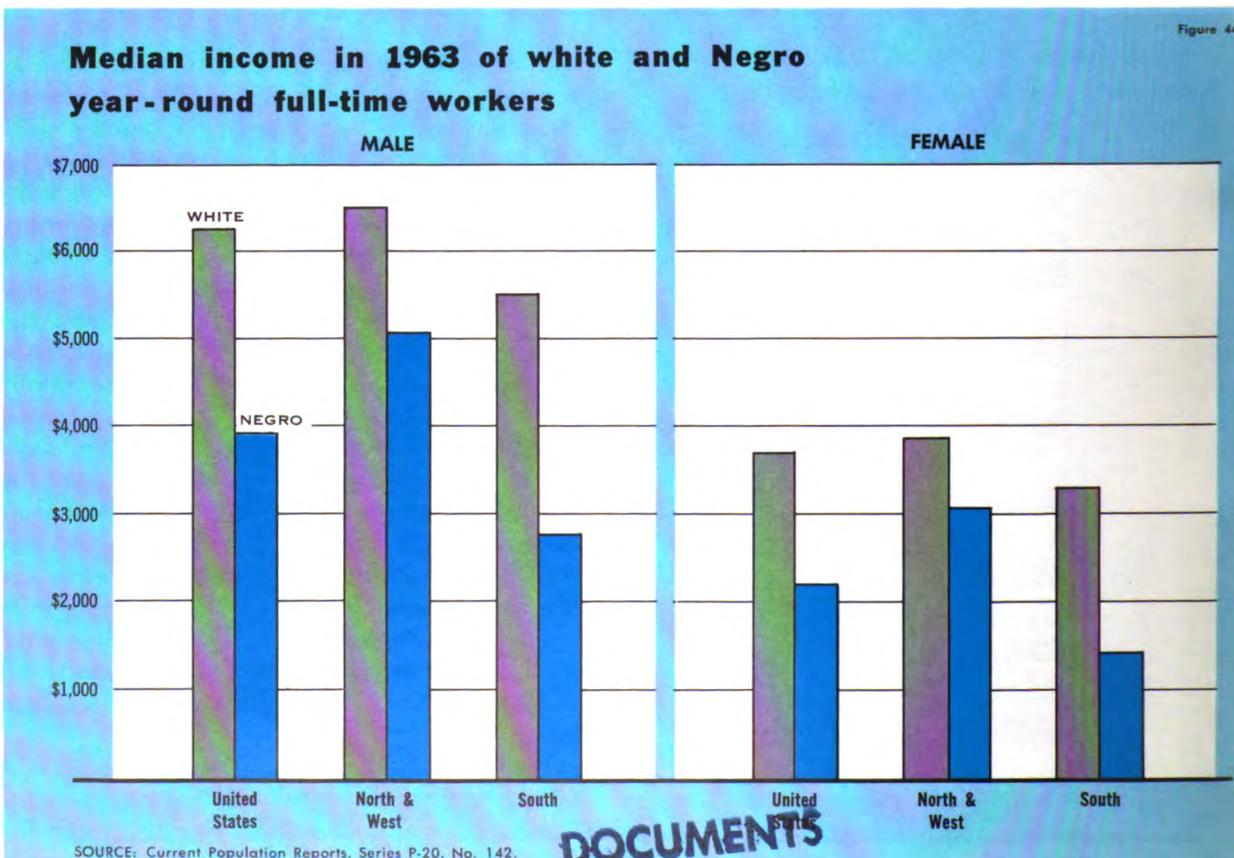
income came from such sources as pensions and welfare payments. Income was comparatively low for families with a woman as the head, partly because many of these women were part-time workers or were nonworkers dependent on other income and partly because of the generally lower compensation received by employed women.

Income of Negroes

The lower level of income received by the Negro population is illustrated by figures on income of year-round, full-time workers. For all races, the median income of this group in 1963 was \$6,100 for men and \$3,600 for women. (The median is the middle amount, half the workers receiving more than this amount and half receiving less). Negro men who worked year round full time had a median income of only \$3,900, about two-thirds the amount received by white men;

and the median income of Negro women in this category was \$2,200, about three-fifths as much as for white women. In all regions of the country, incomes were substantially lower for such Negro men, but the differences were most striking in the South. Negro women had incomes that were close to those of white women in the North and West; but in the South, where the majority live, their incomes were about half the amount received by white women.

The charts presented here have reflected some of the accomplishments of the American people in the last five years as well as some of the problems that still challenge the citizen and his government. The Bureau of the Census, through its current statistical programs, strives to report as promptly as possible the continuing changes in our population. For up-to-date descriptions of individual communities, however, we must wait for the next decennial census in 1970.



DOCUMENTS
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PHOTO CREDITS

page 3 *Washington Evening Star*
page 6 Carl Parcell,
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page 14-15 Carl Parcell,
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page 20 Bob Young, Jr.,
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Where to Find Additional Information

More detailed statistics on the subjects covered in this report are available in reports published annually or more frequently in the Current Population Reports series of the Bureau of the Census. Following is a description of each series, including a list of the subjects on which reports are published:

P-20 Population Characteristics. Current national and, in some cases, regional data on geographic residence and mobility, fertility, education, school enrollment, marital status, numbers and characteristics of households and families, etc. Occasional projections for some of these subjects to dates approximately 20 years in the future.

P-23 Technical Studies. Infrequent reports on methods, concepts, or specialized data.

P-25 Population Estimates. Monthly estimates of the total population of the United States; annual mid-year estimates of the population of States, by broad age groups, and of the United States by age, color, and sex; annual estimates of the components of population change. Estimates of the population of selected metropolitan areas and their component counties. Projections of the future population of the United States and States.

P-27 Farm Population (Census-ERS). Data on the size and selected characteristics of the farm population of the United States. Issued jointly with the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

P-60 Consumer Income. Information on the proportions of families and persons at various income levels. Also data on the relationship of income to age, sex, color, family size, education, occupation, work experience, and other characteristics.