

# Special Studies

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## REVISION IN POVERTY STATISTICS, 1959 TO 1968

This report describes modifications in the definition of poverty which were adopted in 1969. As a result of the deliberations of a Federal Inter-agency Committee two changes were incorporated into the definition of poverty previously employed. These two modifications change the method of adjusting the poverty thresholds for annual cost of living fluctuations and alter the poverty income differential between farm and nonfarm families. This report shows the effect of the revised definition on estimates of the number of families and persons below the poverty levels for the years 1959 to 1967. Data for the year 1968 based on the revised poverty definition are also presented in this report. A report showing more detailed data on poverty for the years 1959 to 1968 based on the revised poverty definition will be published later this year.

**The SSA Poverty Definition.**--Poverty statistics published in previous Census Bureau reports were based on the poverty index developed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 1964.<sup>1</sup> This index provided a range of poverty income cutoffs adjusted by such factors as family size, the sex of the family head, the age of family members, and place of residence. At the core of this definition of poverty was a nutritionally adequate food plan ("economy plan) designed by the Department of Agriculture for "emergency or temporary use when funds are low." Annual revisions of the poverty income cutoffs were based on price changes of the items in the economy food budget.

In determining the proportion of total family income that should be consumed by food requirements, the SSA observed that the percentage of income expended for necessities, in particular food, reflects the relative well being of both individuals and the society in which they live. In general, families that need to use about the same proportion

of their income for a given level of food expenditure are considered to share the same level of living. For families of three or more persons the poverty level was set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. This was the average food cost-to-family income relationship reported by the Department of Agriculture on the basis of a 1955 survey of food consumption.<sup>2</sup> For smaller families and persons residing alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly larger to compensate for the relatively higher fixed expenses of these smaller households. The SSA poverty cutoffs also took account of differences in the cost of living between farm and nonfarm families.

As a result of its deliberations the committee accepted the following two recommendations: (1) that the SSA poverty thresholds for nonfarm families be retained for the base year 1963, but that the annual adjustments in the levels be based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than on changes in the cost of food included in the economy food plan; and (2) that the farm poverty thresholds be raised from 70 to 85 percent of the corresponding nonfarm levels. The combined impact of these two modifications resulted in a net increase of 360,000 poor families and of 1.6 million poor persons in 1967. The reasons for making these changes and the effect of each revision on the poverty data are outlined below.

<sup>1</sup>For a detailed discussion of the SSA poverty standards, see Mollie Orshansky, "Counting the Poor: Another Look at the Poverty Profile," *Social Security Bulletin*, January 1965; and "Who's Who Among the Poor: A Demographic View of Poverty," *Social Security Bulletin*, July 1965.

<sup>2</sup>See U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Food Consumption and Dietary Levels of Households in the United States*, (ARS 626), August 1957.

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Change in the cost of living adjustment.-- Annual revisions of the SSA poverty thresholds were based only on changes in the average per capita cost of the foods in the economy food budget. This method of updating the poverty cutoffs did not fully reflect increases in the overall cost of living during the 1960's (see table A). The pace at which the general cost of living advanced in recent years was not uniformly matched by increases in the price of goods in the economy food plan. Thus, general price changes since 1959 were not paralleled by comparable changes in the poverty thresholds. For example, the CPI went up by 13.7 percent between 1959 and 1966, while poverty thresholds increased by 7.9 percent for an average family during the same period.

Table A.--COMPARISON OF CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND IN THE COST OF ECONOMY FOOD PLAN: 1959-1968

(1963 = 100)

Year	Consumer price index		Economy food plan <sup>1</sup>
	All items	Food	
1968.....	113.6	113.5	108.7
1967.....	109.0	109.6	106.5
1966.....	106.0	108.7	106.5
1965.....	103.0	103.5	102.2
1964.....	101.3	101.2	100.0
1963.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
1962.....	98.8	98.6	97.8
1961.....	97.7	97.6	97.8
1960.....	96.6	96.5	100.0
1959.....	95.1	95.4	97.8

<sup>1</sup>For a description of the items included in the economy food plan see U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Family Food Plans and Food Costs," *Home Economics Research Report No. 20*, November 1962 and "Family Food Plans Revised 1964," *Family Economics Review*, October 1964. The 1964 revision resulted in a slightly less costly diet, offset by price increases.

The differences between changes in the cost of the economy food budget and the overall cost of living led to the adoption of the CPI as the basis for annual revisions in the poverty cutoffs. Although the CPI is not designed to measure the changing market conditions faced solely by poor families, it does reflect the fact that prices of food and non-food commodities do not always advance at the same rate. Employing the CPI to adjust the poverty thresholds annually has another advantage over the earlier adjustment technique. Although the economy food plan is repriced annually, the data are not published regularly but are available only on request. The CPI, on the other hand, is regularly published and is a generally accepted measure of changes in the "cost of living."

Poverty data are shown for the years 1959-1967 in table D using both the CPI and the original method of updating the poverty thresholds and also incorporating the changes in the farm cutoffs.<sup>3</sup> The impact of using the CPI rather than changes in the cost of the economy food plan to adjust the poverty cutoffs for annual changes in the cost of living can be seen most clearly by comparing the nonfarm poverty data based on each of the two price adjustment techniques (table B). Since the difference in the CPI between 1959 and 1963 was greater than the change in the original poverty index during the same period, the number of nonfarm families below the poverty level in 1959 based on the CPI adjustment is 260,000 less than the number originally published. For 1967 the introduction of the CPI cost of living adjustment increased the number of poor nonfarm families by 210,000 and the number of poor nonfarm persons by 880,000 over the numbers originally published. The differences in the poverty thresholds for 1967, 1963, and 1959 are shown in table C. For a nonfarm family of four persons, the revised thresholds in 1967 averaged \$3,410 as compared with \$3,335 based on the original definitions.

Change in the farm-nonfarm relationship.-- Under the old definitions, the poverty thresholds for farm families were adjusted for the average value of food consumed by these families which they had grown themselves. The poverty cutoffs for farm families were established at 70 percent of the nonfarm levels based on a 1961 study of household consumption which indicated that the value of food produced by farm families for home use amounted to about 30 percent of their total food budget.

Determining the appropriate measure of income needed by farm and nonfarm families at an equivalent level of living is difficult. Surveys conducted by the Department of Agriculture indicate that farm families raise a significant proportion of their own food, permitting them to maintain the same diet while requiring less money income than nonfarm families. In making their home on the farm they operate, farm families are relieved of some direct outlays for items other than food--they rent or buy the farm dwelling along with the farm land. Similarly, costs for electricity and other

<sup>3</sup>Note also that a revised method of processing the income data was introduced in 1966. Data for that year are shown in table D based on both the earlier and revised editing and allocation procedures, permitting one to observe the impact of these methodological innovations on the poverty data. For years subsequent to 1966, data have been processed in accordance with the new procedures only.

utilities used in the home will be difficult to separate from those incurred in running the farm. The income reported to the Census Bureau for farm families may thus be understated to a greater degree than for nonfarm families.

On the other hand, community services and facilities readily available in most large cities may

be less accessible in rural areas or lacking altogether, so that expenses for some items may be higher for farm and other rural families than for urban households. It is also true that more and more farm families make some of their living at off-farm jobs so that a growing proportion of their income should not be considered in arriving at the farm discount. In 1967, for example, earnings from

Table B.--COMPARISON OF POVERTY DATA IN 1959, 1963, AND 1967 FOR PERSONS BY FAMILY STATUS AND FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE, BASED ON REVISED AND ORIGINAL POVERTY DEFINITIONS

(Numbers in thousands. Family status refers to March of the following year)

Family status and farm-nonfarm residence	1967 <sup>F</sup>		1963		1959	
	Revised	Original	Revised	Original	Revised	Original
Number below poverty level						
NONFARM						
All persons.....	25,060	24,183	31,255	31,255	31,475	32,148
In families.....	20,214	19,440	26,485	26,485	26,983	27,430
Head.....	5,093	4,886	6,465	6,465	6,625	6,886
Family members under 18 years.....	10,231	9,856	13,397	13,397	13,534	13,413
Other family members.....	4,890	4,698	6,623	6,623	6,824	7,131
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.	4,846	4,743	4,770	4,770	4,492	4,718
FARM						
All persons.....	2,709	1,963	5,181	4,035	8,015	6,792
In families.....	2,557	1,831	5,013	3,896	7,579	6,434
Head.....	574	423	1,089	878	1,696	1,395
Family members under 18 years.....	1,196	873	2,294	1,847	3,575	3,224
Other family members.....	787	535	1,630	1,171	2,208	1,815
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.	152	132	168	139	436	358
Percent below poverty level						
NONFARM						
All persons.....	13.5	13.0	17.9	17.9	19.6	20.0
In families.....	11.7	11.3	16.2	16.2	17.9	18.2
Head.....	10.8	10.4	14.6	14.6	16.1	16.7
Family members under 18 years.....	15.4	14.8	20.9	20.9	23.5	23.3
Other family members.....	8.3	8.0	12.0	12.0	13.2	13.9
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.	37.9	37.1	44.1	44.1	44.0	46.2
FARM						
All persons.....	25.9	19.0	41.4	32.1	50.5	42.6
In families.....	25.3	18.3	41.3	31.9	49.3	41.6
Head.....	21.4	15.8	35.2	28.4	44.6	36.7
Family members under 18 years.....	32.3	23.8	48.4	38.6	57.8	53.1
Other family members.....	21.1	14.6	37.9	27.0	42.3	32.4
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.	45.5	39.5	46.0	38.0	90.3	74.1

<sup>F</sup> Based on revised methodology for processing income data; see Series P-60, No. 59, pages 17 to 19 for explanation.

NOTE.--Farm poverty thresholds in the revised definition are 85 percent of the nonfarm thresholds, whereas a 70 percent farm-nonfarm differential was employed in the original definition. The revised definition uses the Consumer Price Index to adjust the poverty thresholds annually to account for changes in the cost of living. Annual adjustments in the poverty thresholds under the original definition were based on changes in the per capita cost of the economy food plan. See text for an explanation of these differences between revised and original poverty definitions.

nonfarm work averaged 56 percent of net realized money income of families operating farms as contrasted with 50 percent in 1960.<sup>4</sup>

Up to the present time, no entirely satisfactory means of determining the income required for equivalent levels of living for farm and non-farm families has been provided by studies on this subject. Further research is needed to analyze differences in living costs between farm and nonfarm families. Although it is not yet possible to quantify exactly all the factors contributing to cost of living differences between farm and nonfarm families, research already completed suggests that these differences are

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<sup>4</sup>Derived from data presented in Farm Income Situation, July 1968, pp. 53, 68, and 72.

not as great as provided for by the 70 percent differential. After weighing the available evidence, the Review Committee agreed that narrowing the farm-nonfarm poverty threshold differential to 85 percent more nearly reflects the overall cost of living differences between farm and non-farm families than the previously used differential.

The impact of the change in the farm-nonfarm relationship can be seen in table C which shows the farm poverty income cutoffs, in 1967, 1963, and 1959 under the revised and original definitions. The change in the number of farm poor can best be analyzed by the use of data for 1963 which serves as the base year for the cost of living adjustment. For that year, as table B indicates, the number of farm poor under the revised definition was about 1.1 million higher than originally published.

Table C.--COMPARISON OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE THRESHOLDS AT THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1967, 1963, AND 1959, BY SIZE OF FAMILY AND SEX OF HEAD, FOR THE UNITED STATES BY FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE BASED ON REVISED AND ORIGINAL POVERTY DEFINITIONS

Number of family members	Weighted average thresholds at the poverty level													
	Revised definition							Original definition						
	Total	Nonfarm			Farm			Total	Nonfarm			Farm		
Total		Male head	Female head	Total	Male head	Female head	Total		Male head	Female head	Total	Male head	Female head	
1967														
1 member.....	\$1,669	\$1,675	\$1,750	\$1,632	\$1,440	\$1,476	\$1,382	\$1,625	\$1,635	\$1,710	\$1,595	\$1,145	\$1,180	\$1,110
2 members.....	2,149	2,168	2,178	2,110	1,835	1,841	1,754	2,083	2,115	2,128	2,062	1,475	1,482	1,412
3 members.....	2,640	2,661	2,674	2,573	2,256	2,264	2,168	2,559	2,600	2,613	2,514	1,815	1,822	1,744
4 members.....	3,388	3,410	3,412	3,393	2,906	2,907	2,882	3,290	3,335	3,334	3,315	2,345	2,347	2,320
5 members.....	3,992	4,019	4,022	3,984	3,431	3,431	3,438	3,873	3,930	3,930	3,893	2,755	2,772	2,768
6 members.....	4,476	4,516	4,517	4,497	3,851	3,852	3,808	4,334	4,410	4,414	4,394	3,090	3,085	2,553
7 or more members.....	5,486	5,550	5,562	5,433	4,719	4,720	4,667	5,298	5,430	5,435	5,309	3,790	3,799	3,742
1963														
1 member.....	\$1,531	\$1,539	\$1,605	\$1,498	\$1,314	\$1,349	\$1,270	\$1,524	\$1,539	\$1,605	\$1,498	\$1,088	\$1,116	\$1,053
2 members.....	1,967	1,988	1,997	1,933	1,684	1,688	1,608	1,946	1,988	1,997	1,933	1,386	1,390	1,324
3 members.....	2,421	2,442	2,454	2,352	2,067	2,075	1,981	2,401	2,442	2,454	2,352	1,698	1,708	1,597
4 members.....	3,104	3,128	3,129	3,113	2,664	2,665	2,641	3,080	3,128	3,129	3,113	2,195	2,195	2,321
5 members.....	3,652	3,685	3,687	3,661	3,139	3,138	3,145	3,620	3,685	3,687	3,661	2,585	2,585	2,592
6 members.....	4,089	4,135	4,136	4,112	3,538	3,536	3,581	4,042	4,135	4,136	4,112	2,936	2,923	3,196
7 or more members.....	5,008	5,092	5,100	5,000	4,331	4,339	4,226	4,923	5,092	5,100	5,000	3,567	3,574	3,478
1959														
1 member.....	\$1,458	\$1,467	\$1,529	\$1,428	\$1,256	\$1,297	\$1,205	\$1,489	\$1,509	\$1,573	\$1,469	\$1,063	\$1,099	\$1,022
2 members.....	1,872	1,894	1,904	1,843	1,609	1,613	1,552	1,902	1,948	1,958	1,896	1,361	1,365	1,314
3 members.....	2,296	2,324	2,335	2,235	1,972	1,977	1,880	2,333	2,390	2,402	2,299	1,670	1,676	1,593
4 members.....	2,943	2,973	2,974	2,957	2,539	2,539	2,524	2,996	3,059	3,060	3,042	2,155	2,155	2,139
5 members.....	3,460	3,506	3,507	3,483	2,988	2,987	3,006	3,511	3,605	3,606	3,582	2,536	2,530	2,545
6 members.....	3,888	3,944	3,944	3,941	3,355	3,354	3,363	3,943	4,058	4,056	4,075	2,841	2,841	2,849
7 or more members.....	4,725	4,849	4,856	4,763	4,117	4,120	4,040	4,733	4,987	4,994	4,900	3,495	3,489	3,633

NOTE.--Farm poverty thresholds in the revised definition are 85 percent of the nonfarm thresholds, whereas a 70 percent farm-nonfarm differential was employed in the original definition. The revised definition uses the Consumer Price Index to adjust the poverty thresholds annually to account for changes in the cost of living. Annual adjustments in the poverty thresholds under the original definition were based on changes in the per capita cost of the economy food plan. See text for an explanation of these differences between revised and original poverty definitions.

Table D.—COMPARISON OF POVERTY DATA IN 1959 THROUGH 1968 BASED ON REVISED AND ORIGINAL POVERTY DEFINITION

(Numbers in thousands. Family status as of March of the following year)

Selected characteristics	1968 <sup>r</sup>	1967 <sup>r 1</sup>		1966 <sup>r 2</sup>		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959	
	Revised definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition	Revised definition	Original definition
Number below poverty level																					
<b>TOTAL</b>																					
All persons.....	25,389	27,769	26,146	28,510	28,057	30,424	29,657	33,185	31,908	36,055	34,290	36,436	35,290	38,625	37,036	39,628	38,095	39,851	40,090	39,490	38,940
In families.....	20,695	22,771	21,270	23,809	23,354	25,614	24,837	28,398	27,142	30,912	29,229	31,498	30,381	33,623	32,169	34,509	33,109	34,925	35,032	34,562	33,864
Head.....	5,047	5,667	5,309	5,784	5,683	6,200	6,086	6,721	6,451	7,160	6,832	7,554	7,343	8,077	7,756	8,391	8,032	8,243	8,295	8,320	8,281
Nonfarm.....	4,553	5,093	4,886	5,211	5,248	5,566	5,598	5,841	5,785	6,058	5,948	6,467	6,467	7,004	6,890	7,044	6,975	6,649	7,030	6,625	6,886
Farm.....	494	574	423	573	436	634	488	880	666	1,102	884	1,087	878	1,073	866	1,347	1,057	1,594	1,265	1,696	1,393
Family members under 18 years...	10,739	11,427	10,729	12,146	11,934	12,876	12,503	14,388	13,990	15,736	14,894	15,691	15,244	16,630	15,882	16,577	15,999	17,288	17,217	17,208	16,637
Other family members.....	4,909	5,677	5,232	5,879	5,737	6,538	6,248	7,249	6,701	8,016	7,503	8,253	7,794	8,916	8,531	9,541	9,078	9,394	9,520	9,034	8,946
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	4,694	4,998	4,876	4,701	4,703	4,810	4,820	4,827	4,766	5,143	5,061	4,938	4,909	5,002	4,867	5,119	4,986	4,926	5,058	4,928	5,076
<b>WHITE</b>																					
All persons.....	17,395	18,982	17,764	19,290	18,911	20,750	20,313	22,496	21,375	24,958	23,411	25,238	24,121	26,671	25,406	27,889	26,501	28,310	28,706	28,484	28,231
In families.....	13,546	14,851	13,736	15,430	15,050	16,731	16,287	18,508	17,440	20,716	19,228	21,149	20,054	22,613	21,463	23,746	22,473	24,263	24,535	24,443	24,072
Head.....	3,616	4,055	3,766	4,106	4,014	4,481	4,375	4,824	4,590	5,258	4,956	5,466	5,258	5,887	5,622	6,205	5,885	6,115	6,177	6,185	6,183
Nonfarm.....	3,225	3,610	3,454	3,685	3,711	4,002	4,025	4,163	4,119	4,380	4,280	4,610	(NA)	5,090	5,008	5,161	5,102	4,919	5,258	4,916	5,170
Farm.....	390	446	312	421	304	479	350	661	471	878	676	856	(NA)	797	614	1,044	783	1,197	919	1,269	1,013
Family members under 18 years...	6,373	6,729	6,245	7,203	7,039	7,649	7,305	8,596	8,261	9,573	8,856	9,749	9,288	10,382	9,808	10,615	10,061	11,229	11,307	11,386	11,067
Other family members.....	3,557	4,067	3,725	4,121	3,997	4,601	4,607	5,088	4,589	5,885	5,416	5,934	5,508	6,344	6,033	6,926	6,527	6,919	7,051	6,872	6,822
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	3,849	4,131	4,028	3,860	3,861	4,019	4,026	3,988	3,935	4,242	4,183	4,089	4,067	4,058	3,943	4,143	4,028	4,047	4,171	4,041	4,139
<b>NEGRO AND OTHER RACES</b>																					
All persons.....	7,994	8,786	8,382	9,220	9,147	9,673	9,345	10,689	10,533	11,098	10,879	11,198	11,169	11,953	11,630	11,738	11,594	11,542	11,384	11,006	10,709
In families.....	7,149	7,920	7,534	8,379	8,305	8,882	8,551	9,850	9,702	10,196	10,001	10,349	10,327	11,010	10,706	10,762	10,636	10,663	10,497	10,119	9,792
Head.....	1,431	1,611	1,543	1,678	1,669	1,719	1,711	1,897	1,861	1,902	1,876	2,088	2,085	2,190	2,134	2,186	2,147	2,128	2,118	2,135	2,098
Nonfarm.....	1,328	1,483	1,432	1,526	1,537	1,565	1,573	1,679	1,666	1,678	1,668	1,857	(NA)	1,914	1,882	1,882	1,873	1,731	1,772	1,709	1,716
Farm.....	103	128	111	152	132	154	138	219	195	224	208	231	(NA)	276	252	304	274	398	346	426	382
Family members under 18 years...	4,366	4,698	4,484	4,942	4,895	5,227	5,198	5,793	5,729	6,163	6,038	5,942	5,956	6,248	6,074	5,963	5,938	6,059	5,910	5,822	5,570
Other family members.....	1,352	1,611	1,507	1,759	1,741	1,936	1,642	2,160	2,112	2,131	2,087	2,319	2,286	2,572	2,498	2,613	2,551	2,476	2,469	2,162	2,124
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	845	866	848	841	842	791	794	839	831	902	878	849	842	943	924	976	958	879	887	887	917
Percent below poverty level																					
<b>TOTAL</b>																					
All persons.....	12.8	14.2	13.4	14.7	14.5	15.7	15.3	17.3	16.7	19.0	18.1	19.5	18.9	21.0	20.1	21.9	21.0	22.2	22.3	22.4	22.1
In families.....	11.3	12.5	11.7	13.1	12.9	14.2	13.7	15.8	15.1	17.4	16.5	17.9	17.3	19.4	18.6	20.3	19.5	20.7	20.8	20.8	20.4
Head.....	10.0	11.4	10.7	11.8	11.6	12.7	12.4	13.9	13.4	15.0	14.3	15.9	15.5	17.2	16.5	18.1	17.3	18.1	18.3	18.5	18.4
Nonfarm.....	9.5	10.8	10.4	11.3	11.3	12.0	12.1	12.9	12.8	13.5	13.3	14.6	14.6	16.0	15.7	16.4	16.3	15.8	16.8	16.1	16.7
Farm.....	18.8	21.4	15.8	20.6	15.7	23.5	18.1	29.8	22.6	35.6	28.5	35.1	28.4	33.5	27.0	38.6	30.3	45.7	36.2	44.6	26.7
Family members under 18 years...	15.3	16.3	15.3	17.4	17.1	18.4	17.9	20.7	20.1	22.7	21.5	22.8	22.1	24.7	23.6	25.2	24.3	26.5	26.4	26.9	26.1
Other family members.....	7.8	9.1	8.3	9.5	9.2	10.5	10.0	11.8	10.9	13.3	12.4	13.8	13.1	15.1	14.5	16.5	15.6	16.2	16.4	15.9	15.7
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	34.0	38.1	37.2	38.3	38.3	38.9	39.0	39.8	39.3	42.7	42.0	44.2	43.9	45.4	44.2	45.9	44.7	45.2	46.4	46.1	47.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table D.—COMPARISON OF POVERTY DATA IN 1959 THROUGH 1968 BASED ON REVISED AND ORIGINAL POVERTY DEFINITION—Continued

(Numbers in thousands. Family status as of March of the following year)

Selected characteristics	1968 <sup>2</sup>	1967 <sup>1</sup>		1966 <sup>2</sup>		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959	
	Revised definition	Revised definition	Original definition																		
Percent below poverty level—Continued																					
WHITE																					
All persons.....	10.0	11.0	10.3	11.3	11.1	12.2	11.9	13.3	12.7	14.9	14.0	15.3	14.6	16.4	15.6	17.4	16.5	17.8	18.1	18.1	18.0
In families.....	8.4	9.2	8.5	9.7	9.4	10.5	10.2	11.7	11.0	13.2	12.3	13.6	12.9	14.7	14.0	15.8	14.9	16.2	16.4	16.5	16.3
Head.....	8.0	9.0	8.4	9.3	9.1	10.2	9.9	11.1	10.6	12.2	11.5	12.8	12.3	13.9	13.2	14.8	14.0	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.1
Nonfarm.....	7.5	8.5	8.2	8.9	8.9	9.6	9.7	10.2	10.1	10.9	10.6	11.6	11.6	12.9	12.7	13.3	13.2	12.9	13.8	13.1	13.8
Farm.....	15.9	18.1	12.7	16.5	11.9	19.2	14.0	24.6	17.5	31.2	24.0	30.5	(NA)	27.5	21.2	33.3	25.0	39.0	30.0	38.0	30.4
Family members under 18 years.....	10.7	11.3	10.5	12.1	11.8	12.8	12.3	14.4	13.9	16.1	14.9	16.5	15.7	17.9	16.9	18.7	17.7	20.0	20.1	20.6	20.1
Other family members.....	6.3	7.2	6.6	7.4	7.2	8.2	8.2	9.2	8.3	10.8	10.0	11.0	10.3	12.0	11.4	13.3	12.5	13.3	13.5	13.3	13.1
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	32.2	36.5	35.6	36.1	36.1	37.3	37.3	38.1	37.6	40.7	40.2	42.0	42.1	42.7	41.5	43.2	42.0	43.0	44.4	44.1	45.4
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES																					
All persons.....	33.5	37.2	35.4	39.8	39.5	41.7	40.6	47.1	46.4	49.6	48.6	51.0	50.9	55.8	54.2	56.1	55.4	55.9	55.1	56.2	54.6
In families.....	32.4	36.3	34.5	38.9	38.5	41.1	39.9	46.8	46.1	49.1	48.2	50.5	50.4	55.3	53.7	55.6	54.9	55.7	54.8	56.0	54.2
Head.....	28.2	32.1	30.7	33.9	33.7	35.0	34.9	39.7	38.9	40.0	39.5	43.7	43.7	48.0	46.8	49.0	48.2	49.0	48.8	50.4	49.5
Nonfarm.....	27.1	30.9	29.8	32.2	32.5	33.3	33.5	37.2	36.9	37.5	37.3	41.4	(NA)	45.0	44.2	45.9	45.7	44.2	45.3	45.3	45.5
Farm.....	58.9	58.4	50.7	49.8	59.2	75.1	67.3	82.0	73.3	79.2	73.5	81.3	(NA)	90.2	82.1	85.4	77.0	93.4	81.4	91.8	82.3
Family members under 18 years.....	41.6	44.9	42.7	48.2	47.7	50.7	50.4	57.3	56.6	61.5	60.2	60.9	61.0	66.4	64.6	65.7	65.5	66.6	65.1	66.7	63.8
Other family members.....	20.9	25.3	23.7	27.7	27.5	30.2	26.3	35.3	34.5	35.7	34.9	38.9	38.3	43.2	41.9	44.8	43.7	43.3	43.1	42.5	41.7
Unrelated individuals 14 years and over.....	45.7	48.2	47.2	53.1	53.1	50.0	50.2	50.7	50.2	55.0	53.5	58.3	57.8	62.1	60.8	62.7	61.2	59.3	59.3	57.4	59.3

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Based on revised methodology for processing income data; see Series P-60, No. 59, pages 17 to 19 for explanation.<sup>2</sup> Due to a coding error, data for 1967 are not strictly comparable with those shown for 1966 and 1968. It is estimated that this error may have overstated the number of poor families in 1967 by about 175,000 and the number of poor persons by approximately 460,000.<sup>3</sup> Numbers shown here based on the original definition differ slightly from those published in Series P-60, Nos. 55 and 59 due to the use of an improved method for imputing missing income data.

NOTE.—Farm poverty thresholds in the revised definition are 85 percent of the nonfarm thresholds, whereas a 70 percent farm-nonfarm differential was employed in the original definition. The revised definition uses the Consumer Price Index to adjust the poverty thresholds annually to account for changes in the cost of living. Annual adjustments in the poverty thresholds under the original definition were based on changes in the per capita cost of the economy food plan. See text for an explanation of these differences between revised and original poverty definitions.

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