

# Population Estimates and Projections

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## Estimates of the Population of Puerto Rico and the Outlying Areas: 1980 to 1985

(Estimates in this report supersede those for 1980 to 1984 published in press release CB85-203. Estimates for Puerto Rico and the outlying areas for the 1970's, 1960's, and 1950's appear in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 943, 603, and 336, respectively.)

This report presents estimates of the population for July 1, 1980, to 1985 for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States (with an estimate for St. Croix shown separately for the first time), American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (table 1).<sup>1</sup> Census counts for 1980 are also shown for each of the areas. Small areas under American jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean such as Midway, Wake, and Canton Islands, and Johnston Atoll are excluded; there were 1,082 persons on these islands at the time of the 1980 census.<sup>2</sup>

The report also presents the components of population change for these areas for the 1980-85 period. The components of population change are natural change (births minus deaths) and net migration (the number of persons migrating into a particular area minus the number migrating from the area). In some of the areas shown, net migration is not estimated directly but is derived as a residual, that is, the difference between the total amount of change and natural change.

Except for Puerto Rico, all of the areas estimated are growing at a rate well above that of the United States (5.4 percent from April 1, 1980, to July 1, 1985). Of the areas, Guam has exhibited the highest percent growth since 1980—16.8 percent. Puerto Rico grew by only 2.7 percent since 1980, partly because of the high net migration out of Puerto Rico (-157,000) between 1980 and 1985. The Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands all exhibited growth rates between those of Guam and Puerto Rico.

<sup>1</sup>Estimates are no longer shown for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands since each of the three areas contained therein (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau) have negotiated compacts of free association with the United States. These compacts give each of the areas autonomy but leave defense arrangements to the United States.

<sup>2</sup>As of October 1, 1979, the Canal Zone ceased to be under the "jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty" of the United States. Therefore, population estimates are no longer shown for this area. For estimates through 1976, see Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 731.

### METHODOLOGY

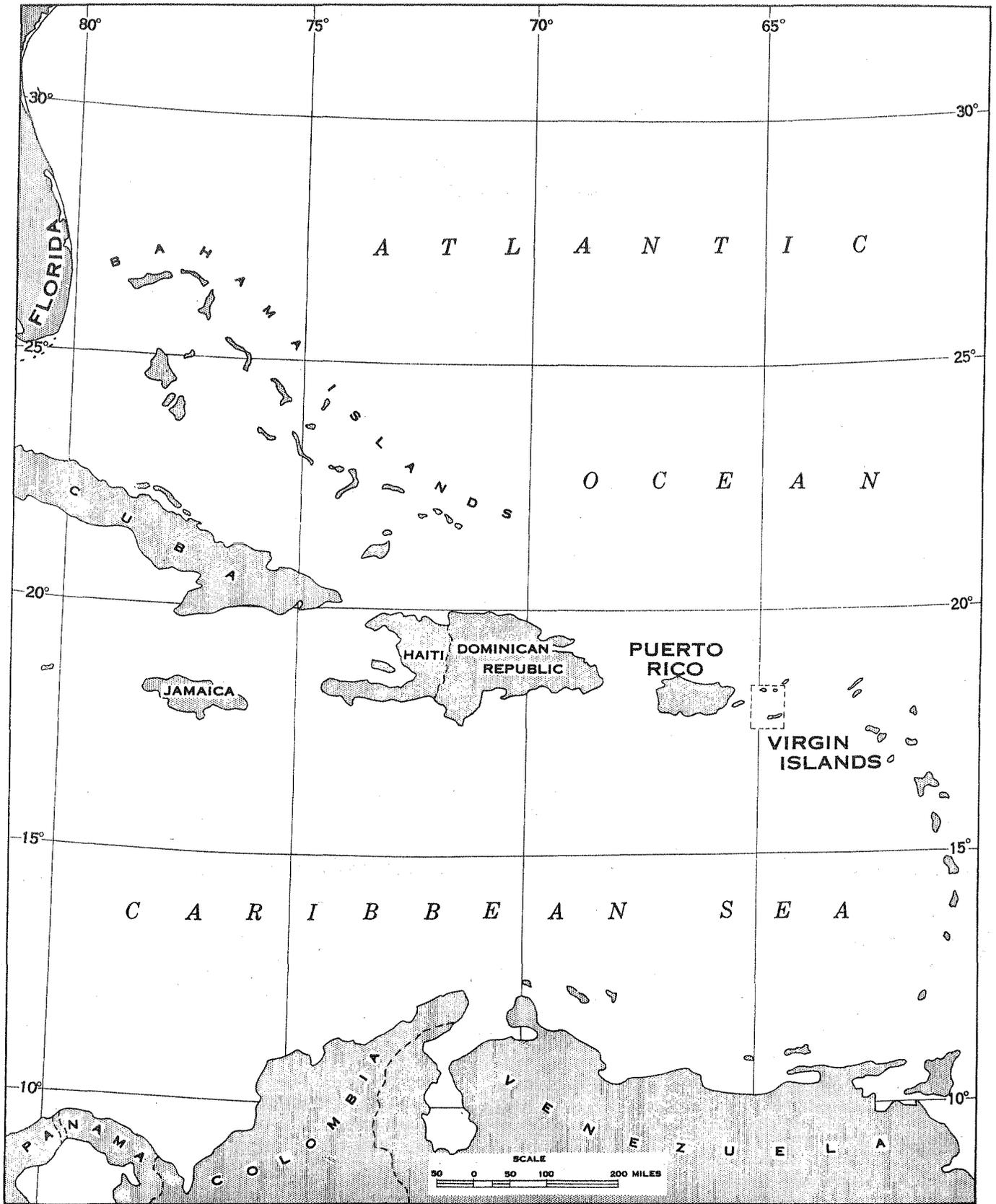
Because the availability of data relating to population change varies from area to area and the concentration of special population groups in some of the areas makes it difficult to rely on standard methods, different procedures are used for each area.

**Puerto Rico.** The estimates for Puerto Rico were based on the 1980 census and on reported statistics for each of the components of population change. The migration component was derived from monthly passenger statistics on arrivals to and departures from Puerto Rico compiled by the Commonwealth government. The migration estimate for Puerto Rico is the sum of centered 12-month moving averages of the reported monthly data. This compensates for bias introduced by short-term fluctuations in passenger data which reflect the seasonal movement of transients (tourists and other visitors) rather than the movement of migrants to a new residence. The movement of transients tends to cancel out over longer periods.

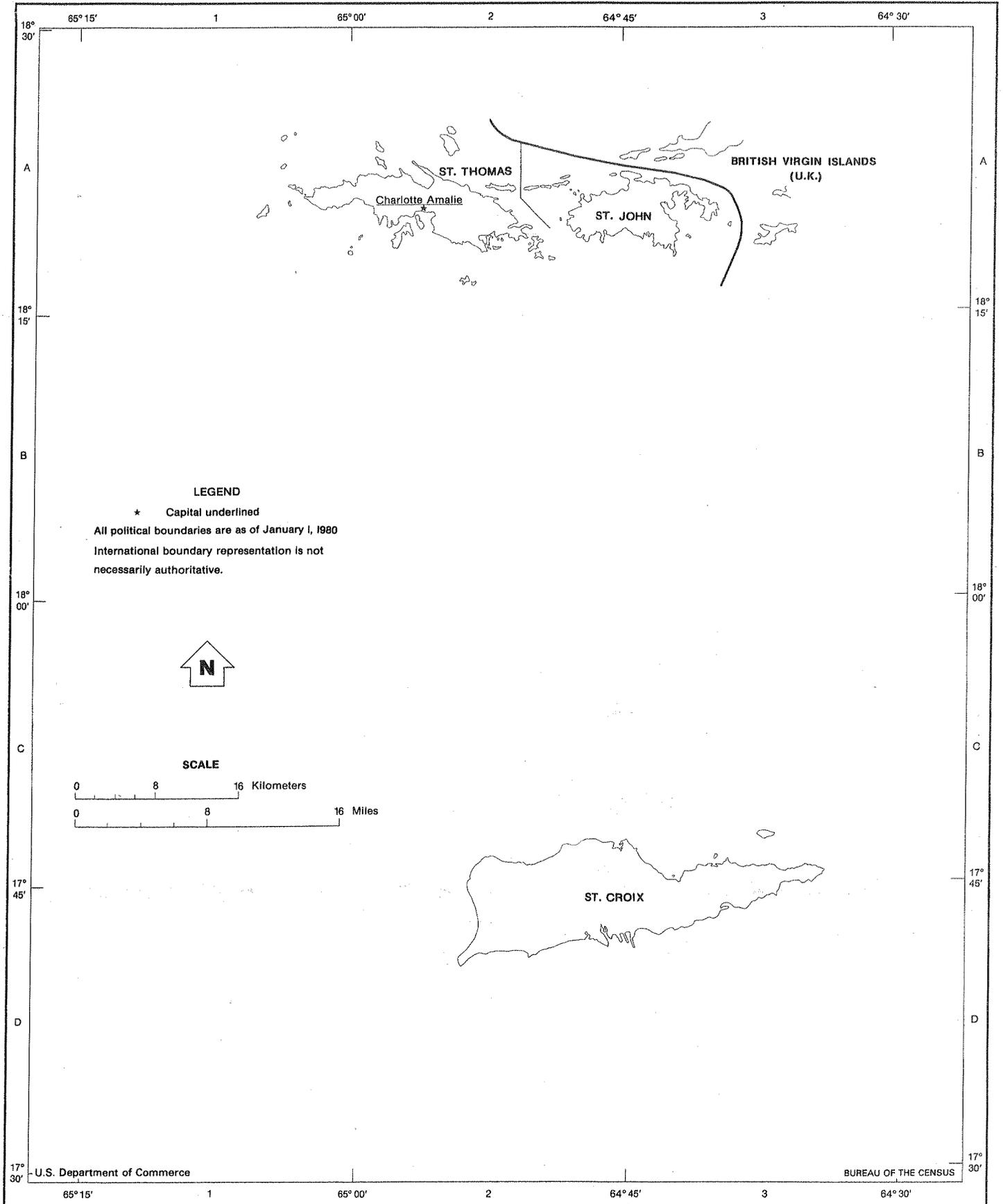
**Virgin Islands.** The estimates for the Virgin Islands and its component islands were based on the 1980 census and reported births and deaths. Component Method II was used to estimate net migration. In this method, net migration is estimated on the basis of school enrollment data, using the difference between the estimated population of elementary school age and the population of school age expected on the basis of the most recent census and births since the census. A more detailed discussion of the method can be found in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 640.

This report marks the first time that the Bureau of the Census has published estimates for the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas-St. John. These latter two islands were estimated as a unit because the school data do not permit reliable separate migration estimates for St. Thomas and

# CARIBBEAN AREA



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES-Islands



St. John (1980 population 44,372 and 2,472, respectively). The island estimates were prepared in the same way as those for the Virgin Islands as a whole, except that they were controlled to an independent U.S. Virgin Islands total as a last step.

**American Samoa.** The estimates for American Samoa were based on the 1980 census and births and deaths reported by the Government of American Samoa. Since there is no reporting system for migration, net migration must be estimated indirectly. For April 1, 1980, through July 1, 1985, the average annual amount of net migration was estimated based on the level of residual net migration for the 1977-80 period. The 1977-80 period was chosen because the Government of American Samoa conducted a survey in 1977 which could be used in conjunction with the 1980 census and reported births and deaths to estimate net migration.

**Guam.** The estimates of the population of Guam were developed by adding the components of change to the relevant population base. The July 1, 1980, through 1985 estimates were derived using a base composed of the 1980 census count less the estimated population on April 1, 1980, who were born in the United States.<sup>3</sup> The population base is restricted because of the large and relatively transient Federally affiliated population for which migration is substantial and difficult to estimate. Rather than estimate migration for this population group, administrative records were used to determine the number of Federally affiliated persons on each estimate date. The following were added to the relevant population base:

1. *Natural increase.* The excess of births over deaths to the population is based on reported birth and death statistics. Excluded are the births and deaths occurring in the U.S. Naval Hospital, which are accounted for in step 4.

2. *Change in alien contract workers.* This category is primarily composed of contract workers brought in from the Philippines by the Department of Defense. The estimates are based on information provided by the Guam Department of Commerce.

3. *Net alien immigration.* These are persons accepted for permanent residence in the United States. The estimate is based on Immigration and Naturalization Service figures on immigrants who reported on their visa application that they intended to live on Guam. It is assumed that 40 percent of the immigrants each year either leave Guam or inaccurately reported their intention of living on Guam.

4. *Federally affiliated population.* The number of Armed Forces stationed on Guam was obtained from the U.S. Department of Defense. The Guam Department of Commerce provided data on the numbers of Federal civilian employees and dependents of both Federal civilian employees and the military.

<sup>3</sup>The April 1, 1980, American population on Guam was estimated based on data furnished by the Guam Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Defense.

5. *Guamanian inductions less discharges.* The number of persons in the Armed Forces in the United States who lived on Guam before joining the military is available from the Department of Defense. One half the change in pre-service residence on Guam was used to approximate inductions less discharges on Guam.

No data are available on the movement of the nonfederally affiliated population who are not covered above, but this component of net migration is probably not large.

**Northern Mariana Islands.** Net migration for April 1, 1980, to July 1, 1985, was estimated based on revised migration estimates for the period 1973 to 1980. The estimates for July 1, 1980, through 1985 were then derived by adding the components of population change to the 1980 census count. Since net migration is computed as a residual and vital statistics are likely to be underreported, the residual probably includes underreported births and deaths to a much greater extent than in American Samoa. For this reason, net migration is not shown for the Northern Marianas in table 1.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE ESTIMATES

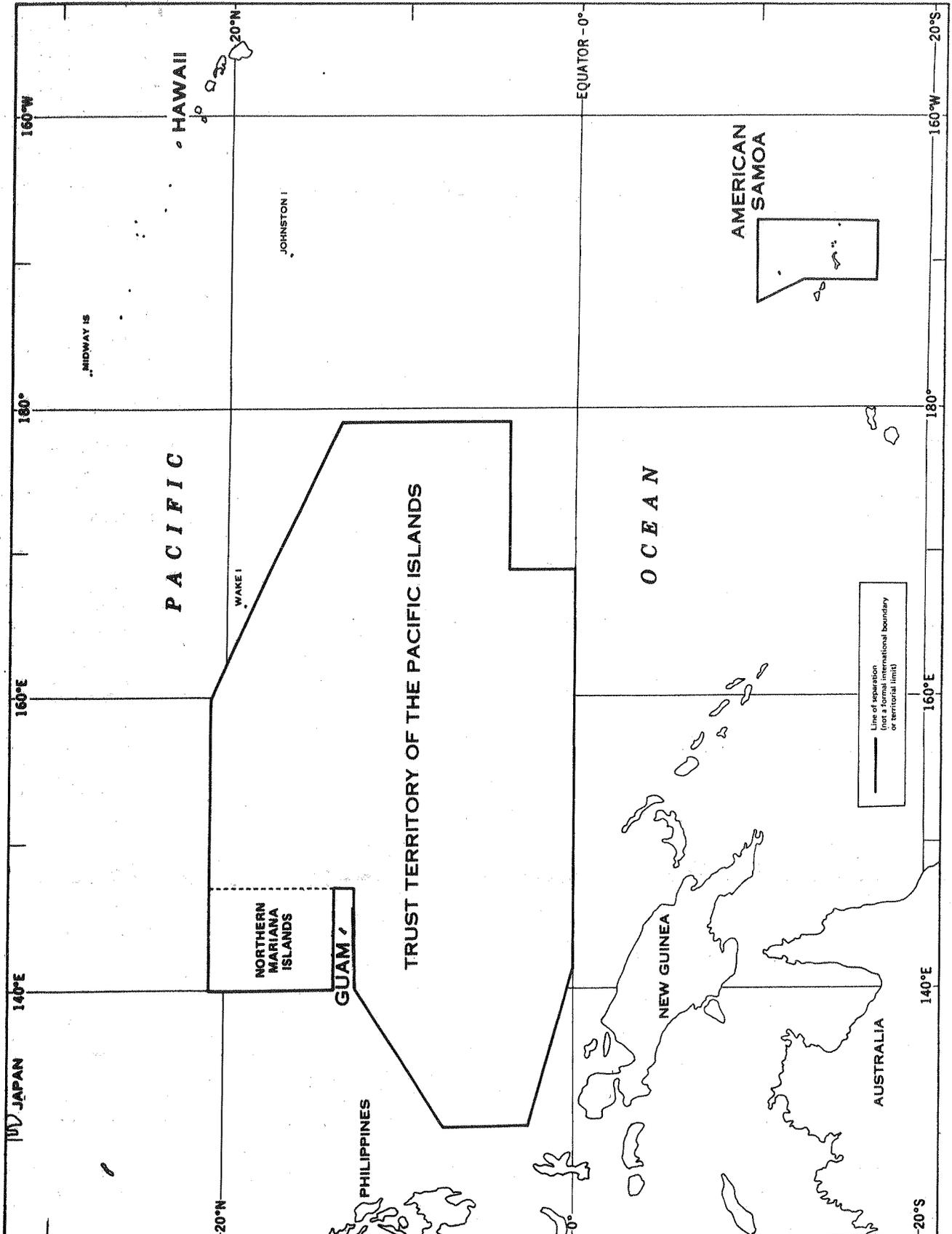
The areas for which estimates are presented in this report are unique in terms of size, location, and composition. This creates difficulty in developing appropriate estimating procedures, much less standard procedures that are applicable for all the areas. The poor quality and absence of adequate data make it difficult to prepare accurate estimates. The estimation techniques used in this report were selected on the basis of a test of methods against the 1970 census or 1980 census<sup>4</sup> or on the basis of the use of additional data sources not previously available. A comparison of the 1980 census results and the estimates for 1980 is shown in table A.

For Puerto Rico, the estimating technique now used remains essentially unchanged from that used for the 1960's and 1970's. The accuracy of the estimate depends very heavily on the cancellation in the migration statistics of the large number of visitors who move between Puerto Rico and the mainland of the United States. Since gross arrival and departure data obviously contain a large number of tourists, net monthly figures are computed and smoothed using a 12-month moving average. This process provides rough approximations of net migration for Puerto Rico. The procedure estimated Puerto Rico's population to be less than 0.1 percent different from the 1980 census results.

In the case of the Virgin Islands, where Component Method II is employed, the difference between the April 1, 1980, estimate and the census count was trivial for the Territory as a whole, only 23 persons. For the island estimates, however, the estimating error was much higher (-7.7 percent for St. Croix and +8.1 percent for St. Thomas-St. John). Efforts will be made to reduce the errors as we gain experience with the independent estimates for the two areas.

<sup>4</sup>For more information on the 1970 test, see Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 731. The 1980 test results are reported in Series P-25, No. 919.

# PACIFIC AREA



**Table A. Comparison of 1980 Census and Population Estimates for Puerto Rico and the Outlying Areas**

Area	1980		Error <sup>1</sup>	Percent error <sup>2</sup>
	1980 census	population estimate		
Puerto Rico.....	3,196,520	3,195,130	-1,390	-
Virgin Islands.....	96,569	96,546	-23	-
St. Croix.....	49,725	45,911	-3,814	-7.7
St. Thomas and St. John.	46,844	50,635	3,791	8.1
American Samoa.....	32,297	32,260	-37	-0.1
Guam.....	105,979	116,251	10,272	9.7
Northern Mariana Islands..	16,780	18,574	1,794	10.7

- Represents zero.

<sup>1</sup>The error of closure is the difference between the 1980 population estimate and the 1980 census count.

<sup>2</sup>Base for percent is 1980 census count.

The estimating procedure used for American Samoa is a means of bridging a period when no possible independent migration estimates can be developed. The 1980 census and the 1977 survey provide reference points which, in combination with reported vital statistics, can be used to yield acceptable estimates of net migration for the intervening period. The actual migration for each year in the period is unknown. In the absence of any other information concerning the annual migration pattern, it has been assumed that there was a smooth annual net outmigration during this period, and that this pattern has continued on through each year until the estimate date.

For Guam, as indicated earlier, the estimates are based on a special estimating method which yields point estimates of the various subcategories of the population. The test of this method for the 1960-70 period showed an overestimate of about 10 percent. This level and direction of error still existed in the estimates in 1980. Likely explanations for this include the lack of accurate migration data as well as conflicting information on persons who were born in the 50 States and

on the special populations employed in the current methodology.

The estimates for the Northern Mariana Islands contain a similar level of error and are biased in the same direction. The 1980 error was 1,794 persons, or 10.7 percent. As was the case for Guam, the lack of any migration data combined with the lack of censuses or surveys during the intercensal period poses a serious problem in estimating the Northern Marianas population.

Efforts will continue to be made to correct the estimation errors to the degree that available methodologies and data will permit.

## SOURCES OF DATA

Most of the statistics used to prepare the area estimates presented in this report were obtained from the local governments of the outlying areas. Data on births and deaths were obtained from the local governments for Puerto Rico and the outlying areas. Armed Forces data are based on figures provided by the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense. School enrollment data for the Virgin Islands were supplied by the Virgin Islands Department of Education.

For Puerto Rico, data on migration were supplied by the Puerto Rico Planning Board. The number of Federal civilian employees on Guam was obtained from the Guam Department of Commerce.

## ROUNDING OF ESTIMATES

Each estimate in this report has been rounded independently to the nearest thousand (Puerto Rico) or hundred (other areas) from figures computed to the last digit. Hence, the sum of the parts may differ from the total shown. Percentages are based on unrounded numbers.

**Table 1. Estimates of the Components of Change in the Resident Population of Puerto Rico and the Outlying Areas: 1980 to 1985**

(Resident population includes persons in the Armed Forces stationed in each area. Each estimate has been rounded to the nearest thousands for Puerto Rico and to the nearest hundred for the outlying areas)

Period and area	Population at end of period	Change		Components of change		
		Number	Percent	Births	Deaths	Net migration
APRIL 1, 1980, TO JULY 1, 1985						
Caribbean areas:						
Puerto Rico.....	3,282,000	86,000	2.7	355,000	113,000	-157,000
Virgin Islands.....	110,800	14,200	14.7	13,000	2,800	4,000
St. Croix.....	55,300	5,600	11.2	6,900	1,300	-
St. Thomas and St. John.....	55,500	8,600	18.5	6,100	1,500	4,000
Pacific areas:						
American Samoa.....	36,300	4,000	12.4	6,500	800	-1,700
Guam.....	123,700	17,800	16.8	<sup>1</sup> 15,900	<sup>1</sup> 2,300	<sup>2</sup> 4,200
Northern Mariana Islands.....	19,100	2,300	14.0	3,300	500	**

- Represents zero.

\*\* Because part of the residual migration in this area reflects underregistration of vital statistics, migration figures are not shown.

<sup>1</sup> Total births and deaths.

<sup>2</sup> Includes movement of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

**Table 2. Estimates of the Resident and Civilian Populations of Puerto Rico and the Outlying Areas: 1980 to 1985**

(Each estimate has been rounded to the nearest thousand for Puerto Rico and to the nearest hundred for the outlying areas)

Date (July 1, except as noted)	Puerto Rico	Virgin Islands			American Samoa	Guam	Northern Mariana Islands
		Total	St. Croix	St. Thomas and St. John			
RESIDENT POPULATION							
1985.....	3,282,000	110,800	55,300	55,500	36,300	123,700	19,100
1984.....	3,269,000	107,500	55,000	52,500	35,300	119,900	18,600
1983.....	3,265,000	103,700	53,800	49,900	34,500	116,000	18,200
1982.....	3,262,000	101,500	52,300	49,200	33,800	110,500	17,800
1981.....	3,245,000	98,300	50,800	47,500	33,100	109,900	17,300
1980.....	3,206,000	97,700	50,300	47,400	32,400	106,900	16,900
1980 (April 1).....	3,197,000	96,600	49,700	46,800	32,300	106,000	16,800
CIVILIAN POPULATION							
1985.....	3,277,000	110,800	55,300	55,500	36,300	114,200	19,100
1984.....	3,265,000	107,300	54,800	52,500	35,300	112,200	18,600
1983.....	3,261,000	103,700	53,800	49,900	34,500	108,000	18,200
1982.....	3,259,000	101,500	52,300	49,200	33,800	102,500	17,800
1981.....	3,242,000	98,200	50,700	47,500	33,100	101,400	17,300
1980.....	3,202,000	97,700	50,300	47,400	32,400	97,400	16,900
1980 (April 1).....	3,192,000	96,600	49,700	46,800	32,300	96,700	16,800