
GENERAL REPORT AND ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION.

General description of reports of population.—At the Thirteenth Census a separate report pertaining to population was prepared for each state. This was originally issued in the form of two bulletins. This report was subsequently bound up as part of the supplement for the given state to the Abstract of the Census. In this report the general results of the census inquiry relating to the state were summarized. It presented a series of tables in which the most important figures for the state as a whole were shown, with a brief text making such explanations as were deemed necessary and calling attention to the more important statistics. The state report also contained figures as to the number of inhabitants in each county and each minor civil division, together with statistics as to the composition and characteristics of the population of each county and of each incorporated place of 2,500 inhabitants or more, including New England towns of that size. Separate reports were prepared for Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico. All of these separate state reports on population have been bound up together and appear as Volumes II and III of the Thirteenth Census Reports.

In the present volume the general results of the census inquiry concerning population, except those relating to occupations, are arranged by subjects and are summarized in each case by states, geographic divisions and sections, and for the principal cities. The only data for counties given in this volume are those relating to number of inhabitants, sex, principal color or race, nativity, and parentage classes of the population, males of voting age, and ownership of homes; and for the last-named subject, also, for places of more than 10,000 inhabitants. The subject of occupations is covered by a separate volume (Volume IV).

Area of enumeration.—The area of enumeration of the Thirteenth Decennial Census included, besides the United States in the ordinary understanding of that term, Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico. Other outlying possessions and dependencies were not canvassed. The principal facts with regard to Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico are brought out in special tables in Chapters I, II, XIV, and XVI of this volume, but the fuller details will be found only in the separate reports for these dependencies, presented in Volume III. In the great majority of the tables of this volume the figures for these outlying possessions are omitted and the totals given for the United States relate only to the United States proper. This exclusion of the outlying possessions rests on the obvious differences as respects the characteristics of the population and social and

economic conditions which exist between these distant territories and the United States proper.

Law providing for the census of population.—The act of Congress approved July 2, 1909, entitled "An act to provide for the thirteenth and subsequent decennial censuses," contained detailed provisions regarding the organization of the field force for the collection of the statistics of population. Briefly stated, the United States proper was divided into 329 supervisors' districts, each under the charge of a supervisor of census appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The supervisors selected enumerators, approximately 70,000 in number, each enumerator being assigned to a particular district. The enumerators were required to visit each dwelling personally and to collect the statistics provided for on the schedules. In Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico, as expressly authorized by law, the statistics were collected by special agents whose functions and pay were substantially the same as those of the enumerators in the United States proper and who worked under the direction of a supervisor of census in Porto Rico and under the direction of chief special agents in Alaska and Hawaii.

The provisions of law as to the topics to be covered by the population census were as follows:

The schedules relating to population shall include for each inhabitant the name, relationship to head of family, color, sex, age, conjugal condition, place of birth, place of birth of parents, number of years in the United States, citizenship, occupation, whether or not employer or employee, and, if employee, whether or not employed at the date of enumeration and the number of months unemployed during the preceding calendar year, whether or not engaged in agriculture, school attendance, literacy, and tenure of home and whether or not a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy; and the name and address of each blind or deaf and dumb person; and for the enumeration of institutions, shall include paupers, prisoners, juvenile delinquents, insane, feeble-minded, blind, deaf and dumb, and inmates of benevolent institutions.

In accordance with these provisions of the census act, a general population schedule was prepared, a copy of which appears in the appendix to this volume, and also a special schedule to be used for the Indian population. The schedules for Hawaii and Porto Rico differed slightly from those for the United States proper. The enumerators were furnished with printed instructions as to the method of filling out the schedule and as to the manner of determining the persons who should and who should not be enumerated in their districts.

Date of enumeration.—Section 20 of the census act provided that the enumeration of the population should be taken as of the 15th of April. For several

censuses prior to the Thirteenth Census the date of enumeration had been June 1. The change to April 15, which was suggested by the Census Bureau, was believed to be desirable because considerable numbers of persons are away from their homes in June. It is not likely that this change in the date of enumeration has any appreciable effect upon the comparability of the statistics. It is possible that the enumeration was, by reason of the change, slightly more complete in 1910 than in 1900.

The census enumerators began their work on April 15. The law provided that they should complete it in the case of cities of 5,000 inhabitants or more within 2 weeks, and in the case of smaller places and rural districts within 30 days. Most enumerators actually completed the work within the time fixed by law.

Statistics by geographic divisions.—With reference to practically all subjects the tables of this volume give detailed statistics for each state, as well as for the United States as a whole. Because, however, of the large number of states, it is extremely difficult for anyone desiring to ascertain the broad geographical conditions regarding the population of the country to do so by means of the statistics for individual states. In addition, therefore, to the presentation by states, this volume gives statistics for nine groups of states which are designated as geographic divisions. The states which constitute the respective divisions can be easily ascertained by reference to any of the general tables or to the accompanying map on page 16.

This plan reduces the comparisons necessary to a general understanding of the geographic differences in conditions to a number which can be readily grasped. The states within each of these divisions are for the most part fairly homogeneous in physical characteristics, as well as in the characteristics of their population and in their social and economic conditions, while, on the other hand, each division differs more or less sharply from most of the others in these respects. Attention is, so far as possible, called in the text to those cases where individual states present marked exceptions to the conditions in the divisions in which they lie. In forming these groups of states the lines have been based partly on present and partly on historical conditions.

The grouping of the states in geographic divisions has facilitated a geographical rather than an alphabetical order in the tables which present the results for individual states. The advantage of this geographical order lies chiefly in the ease with which conditions in contiguous states can be compared.

Statistics for urban and rural communities.—Cities represent, in comparison with the remainder of the country, a distinct type of economic and industrial life. This fundamental distinction between the economic activities of urban and rural districts brings

with it certain marked differences with respect to the composition and characteristics of the population. As the cities are very numerous, and as they contain often a large part of the total population of a state, these differences can not be readily perceived by comparing the statistics for individual cities with those for the states. For convenience of comparison, therefore, statistics regarding the number, composition, and characteristics of the population have been presented separately for urban communities as a group and for rural communities as a group. In drawing this distinction all incorporated places (including New England towns) having a population of 2,500 inhabitants or more are considered as urban, and the remainder of the country as rural. A discussion of this classification is found in Chapter I. A further analysis of the urban population is given in some of the tables by classifying the cities according to their size.

In addition to statistics for urban communities as a class, figures are given throughout the chapters on population for the more important cities individually. For the larger cities the tables generally give the same details as for the states. For smaller cities the statistics are presented in more condensed form.

Comparative and derivative figures.—Both in the general tables and in the text discussion an effort has been made to enhance the value of the statistics for the census of 1910 by the introduction of comparative figures for earlier censuses, and by the presentation of important ratios, averages, and percentages. The full significance of the census data is brought out only by comparisons between different censuses for the same area and between different states or geographical areas for the same census, and comparisons based upon absolute numbers are usually much less instructive and less readily grasped than those based upon percentages and averages.

Text discussion of tables.—The general aspects of the statistics presented in tabular form are discussed in the accompanying text. This explanatory text serves the purpose of calling attention to certain important results of the census inquiry. In the main, the discussion is of necessity confined to the facts disclosed by the census concerning the United States as a whole and the geographic divisions and sections, with less detailed reference to the figures for individual states. This general discussion, however, should serve as a guide to the interpretation of the figures for the smaller geographic units and should likewise be useful in preventing erroneous conclusions which might occasionally be drawn from the consideration of an isolated table without taking into account its relation to other census data.

In the presentation of the results of the census by subjects, the text and tables relative to each subject have been treated as a unit, the tables being either

inserted in the text or placed immediately after it. This represents to some extent a departure from the practice, followed in many census reports, of printing the general tables at the end of the volume and the text comment at the beginning, but it is believed to effect a distinct gain for those who consult the volume to study a given subject. At the same time those who merely refer to it for some particular figure will readily find it with the aid of the table of contents.

Maps and diagrams have been employed in this volume to present graphically some of the most important facts ascertained by the census, and have, as far as possible, like the tables, been printed in immediate connection with the discussion of the subject to which they refer.

The map preceding page 15 shows in red the dates of the various acquisitions of territory. The dates given on the map are the dates of the various treaties, and not the dates of ratification; for instance, for Guam, the Philippine Islands, and Porto Rico, the date of accession is usually given as 1899, but the date given on the map is 1898, the date of the treaty of Paris, which was signed December 10, 1898, although ratifications were not exchanged until the next year. The same is true of Samoa, which was acquired by virtue of the treaty of 1899, but was not ratified until the next year, 1900.

The dates given are the dates used by the General Land Office on its maps and in referring to these acquisitions.