

# COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION

## INTRODUCTION

In this volume are presented the more important classifications of the population as returned in the 1930 census, for the States, arranged alphabetically, from Montana to Wyoming. The data for the States from Alabama to Missouri are contained in Part 1 of Volume III of the Fifteenth Census Reports on Population, which includes also a summary for the United States as a whole. The material was first published in a series of State bulletins, which are now bound together to make the present volumes.

Statistics are presented for each State by counties, and in varying degrees of detail for all incorporated places having 1,000 inhabitants or more, for the townships or other minor civil divisions into which the counties are divided, and for the wards of the larger cities. The classifications presented include color or race; nativity and parentage of the white population; citizenship of the foreign-born white; sex; age (under 1 year, 5-year periods up to 34, and 10-year periods from 35 to 74); school attendance; illiteracy; marital condition; country of birth of the foreign-born white; country of birth of parents of the native white population of foreign or mixed parentage; and gainful workers classified by industry groups.

Some additional items remain to be presented in other publications, in particular, State of birth; mother tongue; nativity of the nonwhite population; additional age detail, including single years of age; year of immigration; ability to speak English; age, illiteracy, and marital condition of the foreign-born white by country of birth; and detailed occupations, together with dwellings and families, tenure of home, and other family data.

The results of the count of the population returned in the 1930 census were first published in a series of State bulletins (Population, First Series) which gave the total population alone for the State and for all of its political subdivisions, including counties, townships, cities, and other incorporated places. The total population figures for States, counties, cities, and other incorporated places having a population of 1,000 or more were assembled and published in a summary bulletin (United States Summary, Population, First Series). The First Series State bulletins, together with the Summary Bulletin, have been bound together in a volume which constitutes Volume I of the Fifteenth Census Reports on Population (Population, Volume I, 1930).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This volume may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for \$2. Other volumes of the Census reports are available upon publication from the same source at proportionate prices.

Urban and rural areas.—Urban population, as defined by the Census Bureau, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more, the remainder being classified as rural. In three of the New England States, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, conditions are exceptional in that the compactly built portions of the towns (townships) are not separately incorporated or politically distinct in any way from the rural territory within the same town; nor is it the usual practice to incorporate even the larger places as cities until they attain a population in excess of 10,000. Consequently, if only the cities were counted as urban the classification would be quite inadequate. In 1920 and 1910 all towns in these three States which had a population of 2,500 or more were classified as urban. This resulted in the inclusion of a considerable number of places that were mainly rural in their general characteristics. In 1930 the special rule for these New England States has been modified so as to place in the urban classification, in addition to the regularly incorporated cities, only those towns in which there is a village or thickly settled area having more than 2,500 inhabitants and comprising, either by itself or when combined with other villages in the same town, more than 50 per cent of the total population of the town.<sup>2</sup>

One other modification has been made in the definition of urban population for use in connection with the 1930 census. This modification extends the classification so as to include townships and other political subdivisions (not incorporated as municipalities, nor containing any area so incorporated) which had a total population of 10,000 or more and a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile.<sup>3</sup>

Since it has been found impracticable to go back and readjust to the new basis the 1920 urban and rural figures as they were tabulated by color, sex, age, etc., they are presented in all tables as established in 1920. The comparative figures for a few States therefore

<sup>2</sup> The result of this modification has been to transfer from the urban to the rural classification 12 towns in New Hampshire (population, 35,339), 56 towns in Massachusetts (population, 213,231), and 8 towns in Rhode Island (population, 35,001) which would have been counted as urban if the 1920 rule had been followed in 1930. The aggregate population in 1930 of these towns, which were in effect transferred from the urban to the rural classification, is 288,621.

<sup>3</sup> This extension adds to the urban group 11 townships in New Jersey (population, 208,722), 10 townships in Pennsylvania (population, 210,505), 4 towns in Connecticut (population, 37,084), 2 townships in California (population, 43,992), and 1 town in New York (population, 18,024). The aggregate population of these 28 places, which would have been classified as rural under the rules governing the urban-rural classification in 1920, is 573,329.

The net effect of the two changes in the basis of the urban classification is, therefore, to increase the urban population by 284,708. In other words, if the classification had been made in 1930 on exactly the same basis as in 1920, the urban population would have been 68,670,115, instead of 68,954,823, and the percentage urban would have been 55.9 instead of 56.2.

show differences which must be considered or interpreted as solely or mainly the result of the change in the method of classification. Percentages and rates, however, such as the percentage illiterate and the per cent distribution by age, are less seriously affected by the change in the basis of classification and are in most cases fairly comparable.

**Farm population.**—The farm population as shown for 1930 comprises all persons living on farms, without regard to occupation. The farm population figures for 1920 include, in addition, those farm laborers (and their families) who, while not living on farms, nevertheless lived in strictly rural territory outside the limits of any city or other incorporated place. Though the number of additional persons thus included is believed not to have been very great, some allowance should be made for this difference in definition when comparing the figures. Further allowance should be made for the fact that the 1920 census was taken in January, when considerable numbers of farm laborers and others usually living on farms were temporarily absent, while the 1930 census was taken in April, when by reason of the advancing season the number of persons on the farms was appreciably larger.

In Table 1 for each State the 1930 and 1920 farm population figures are presented in two subdivisions, urban-farm and rural-farm, and the 1930 data are shown in the same way by counties in Table 13. The urban-farm population, which comprises persons living on farms situated within the limits of cities or other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or over, is printed in *italics* in these tables, and the more detailed presentations in other tables are limited to the rural-farm population. In other words, the analysis of the farm population is limited to that part living in rural territory, which is designated in every case as "rural-farm." This is done partly to simplify the classification (dividing the total population into three groups, namely, urban, rural-farm, and rural-nonfarm) and partly because it is felt that the few farm families resident within the corporate limits of cities or towns are living under conditions at least somewhat urban, rather than under typical farm conditions.

**Color, nativity, and sex.**—In the main tabulations of the population by color or race, three groups are distinguished, namely, white, Negro, and "Other races." In some of the tables, however, the third group is subdivided into its constituent parts, the principal ones being Mexican, Indian, Chinese, and Japanese.

In several of the tables, figures are presented for the total population and for whites and Negroes, omitting the relatively small numbers of "Other races." These are included in the totals, however, and can be

obtained, if needed, by adding the figures for white and Negro and subtracting the sum from the total.

The white population is divided primarily into three groups: (1) Natives<sup>4</sup> of native parentage—that is, having both parents born in the United States; (2) natives of foreign or mixed parentage—that is, having one or both parents born abroad; and (3) foreign born. In some of the tables the second group is divided into two parts, namely, (a) natives of foreign parentage—that is, having both parents born abroad; and (b) natives of mixed parentage—that is, having one parent native and the other foreign born. The nativity and parentage classifications of the nonwhite groups have been omitted from this volume, as being of less importance, since nearly all Negroes and Indians are natives of native parentage and nearly all Chinese and Japanese are either foreign born or of foreign parentage.

Persons of Mexican birth or parentage who were not definitely returned as white or Indian were designated "Mexican" in 1930 and included in the general class of "Other races." In prior censuses most Mexicans have been classified as white.

For use in connection with tabulations where the main object is to compare the 1930 population with the 1920 population by color and nativity, the number of persons enumerated in 1920 who would have been classified as Mexican under the instructions used in 1930 has been estimated. The estimate for 1920 is 700,541, which may be compared with 1,422,533, the number of Mexicans actually returned in 1930.

Since it was not practicable to make these estimates until the 1930 tabulation had been completed for all States, they were not embodied in the bulletins which form the State sections or chapters in this volume. For the use of those who may wish to make close comparisons of the figures affected by the change in the classification of Mexicans, the 1920 estimates for the States covered by the present volume are shown in the statement on the opposite page.

To obtain what might be termed "adjusted" figures for the 1920 white population, for close comparison with the 1930 white population, the estimated number of Mexicans for the State in question should be subtracted from the white population as returned in 1920. In the same way the 1920 figures for the native white or the foreign-born white population may be adjusted by deducting the native or the foreign-born Mexicans. A similar adjustment may be made for the population designated as "Other races," either by adding the estimated number of Mexicans to the 1920 total for "Other races" or by subtracting the Mexicans from the 1930 figures for this group.

<sup>4</sup>In the classification by nativity, a person born in the United States or in any of its territories or possessions is counted as native.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MEXICANS INCLUDED IN THE WHITE CLASSIFICATION IN 1920

STATE	Total	NATIVE (BORN IN THE UNITED STATES)			Foreign born (born in Mexico)
		Total	Foreign parentage	Mixed parentage	
Montana.....	269	69	25	44	200
Nebraska.....	2,740	439	355	84	2,307
Nevada.....	1,297	189	110	79	1,108
New Hampshire.....	1	1	1	1	1
New Jersey.....	255	70	21	49	185
New Mexico.....	32,704	13,730	8,496	5,234	19,004
New York.....	1,470	292	128	134	1,217
North Carolina.....	10	3	3	3	7
North Dakota.....	42	17	3	14	25
Ohio.....	942	139	55	84	803
Oklahoma.....	7,977	1,664	1,208	456	6,313
Oregon.....	616	113	26	87	503
Pennsylvania.....	1,481	207	98	109	1,274
Rhode Island.....	4	2	2	2	4
South Carolina.....	6	2	2	2	4
South Dakota.....	95	20	9	20	66
Tennessee.....	54	19	5	14	35
Texas.....	388,675	145,940	103,224	42,716	242,735
Utah.....	1,202	273	128	145	929
Vermont.....	1	1	1	1	1
Virginia.....	38	13	4	9	25
Washington.....	384	95	29	66	280
West Virginia.....	55	13	3	10	42
Wisconsin.....	238	107	31	76	131
Wyoming.....	2,000	247	178	69	1,753

**Citizenship.**—The foreign-born white population is distributed by citizenship in Tables 2 and 4 for each State. This classification comprises four groups: (1) Naturalized; (2) having first papers—that is, having made formal declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States; (3) alien; and (4) unknown—that is, with status as to citizenship not reported.

**Age.**—The age classification in the census returns is based on age at last birthday, that is, age in completed years. Age statistics are presented in Table 3 for each State by 5-year periods up to 34 and by 10-year periods from 35 to 74, with the number of children under 1 year of age, all by color, nativity, parentage, and sex.<sup>5</sup> A few additional age periods for persons under 20 years old are given in the tables on school attendance. Ages are also presented by color, nativity, and sex for counties and the larger cities, and in condensed form for the smaller areas, including townships and the wards of cities of 50,000 or more.

**School attendance.**—The school-attendance tabulation is based on the replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person had attended school or college of any kind since September 1, 1929.

**Illiteracy.**—The Census Bureau defines as illiterate any person 10 years of age or over who is unable to read and write. The classification is based on the answers given to the enumerator in response to the question "Whether able to read and write." No specific test of ability to read and write was prescribed, but the enumerators were instructed not to return the answer "Yes" (which would classify the person

as literate) simply because a person was able to write his or her name.

**Marital condition.**—The classification as to marital condition—whether single, married, widowed, or divorced—is presented for the population 15 years of age and over, by sex, color, and nativity.

**Foreign white stock by country of origin.**—The foreign white stock, as defined by the Census Bureau, is composed of two distinct elements, the foreign-born white and the native white of foreign or mixed parentage. The foreign-born white are classified according to country of birth; the native white of foreign or mixed parentage are classified according to country of birth of father, except where the father is native and the mother foreign born, and then according to country of birth of mother. All classifications of the 1930 population according to country of birth, so far as they relate to European stock, are based on the present political boundaries of European countries. Comparative figures are presented for the foreign born only, because the 1920 figures for natives of foreign parentage were classified according to pre-war rather than postwar geography, with the result that for many countries the data are not comparable with those tabulated for 1930.

**Gainful workers by industry groups.**—In response to a widespread demand for some classification of the gainful workers by counties, a condensed tabulation has been made for the counties and for cities of 25,000 or more. This tabulation is summarized in Table 10 for each State, which shows the population 10 years of age and over engaged in gainful occupations classified into about 50 industrial groups. (Persons usually working at a gainful occupation but temporarily unemployed at the time of the census are included in the number of gainful workers.) Because this classification was made largely for the benefit of the rural counties, specific occupations in the agricultural group (farmers, farm laborers, etc.) are shown separately. The other classifications are strictly industry or service groups, with no attempt to show specific occupations. The figures are presented for males and females and also, in the Southern States, for white and Negro workers. Similar figures, though with a somewhat condensed list of industry groups, are presented by counties and for cities of 25,000 or more in Table 20 for each State. Table 10 shows the complete list of industry groups as tabulated, without regard to their importance in the particular State. Small numbers of workers may be shown in this table for industries not carried on in the State, these representing persons who usually work in the specified industries elsewhere. In Table 20 the smaller groups have been consolidated and only the more important ones are shown by counties. The specific make-up of any of these consolidated groups can be found by referring to Table 10.

<sup>5</sup> Further age detail, including 5-year periods from 35 to 99, and single years of age, will be presented in Volume II of the Fifteenth Census Reports. The chapter on age from that volume will also be reprinted as a separate bulletin.