SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

POPULATION

THE LABOR FORCE
(Sample Statistics)

Part I: General Characteristics

Bureau of the Census
Library

Prepared under the supervision of
Dr. LEON E. TRUESDELL
Chief Statistician for Population

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THE LABOR FORCE (SAMPLE STATISTICS)

This volume is comprised of two parts, with the reports arranged as follows:

Part 1. General Characteristics:

Employment and Personal Characteristics
Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force
Employment and Family Characteristics of Women
Wage or Salary Income in 1939
Education, Occupation, and Household Relationship
of Males 18 to 44 Years Old

Part 2. Occupational and Industrial Characteristics:

Industrial Characteristics
Occupational Characteristics
Usual Occupation
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

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(Sample Statistics)

Employment and Personal Characteristics

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REPORTS ON POPULATION

Volume
I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data).

Additional Reports—Internal Migration, Families (Including Housing Data), Fertility, Parentage, Mother Tongue, Further Statistics on The Labor Force, etc.

Special Reports.

REPORTS ON HOUSING

I Data for Small Areas, by States.
Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
IV Mortgages on Owner-Occupied Nonfarm Homes, by States.

Special Reports.
Sampling techniques were utilized in the Sixteenth Decennial Census for the first time in the history of the Population Census. The use of sampling methods permitted the collection of statistics on a larger number of inquiries than had heretofore been possible, the release of preliminary population statistics at an early date, and the tabulation of a great many social and economic characteristics of the population at a relatively low cost.

This report is based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the population returns and presents an analysis of the principal relationships between employment of individuals and their personal characteristics and family relationships. These statistics show some of the most important factors affecting the size and character of the supply of labor in the United States, and the degree to which it was utilized during a period of widespread unemployment. This report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief Statistician for Population, and Dr. A. Ross Eckler, Assistant Chief Statistician, by William H. Mautz, Chief of Economic Statistics, and Dr. John D. Durand, Employment Analyst. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.
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EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

INTRODUCTION

This report presents detailed national and regional data on employment and unemployment according to personal characteristics and household relationships, based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population. Statistics on employment status and hours worked during the census week (that is, the week of March 24 to 30, 1940), months worked in 1939, duration of unemployment, class of worker, and major occupation group are presented by age, sex, color, and household relationship, for the United States and for the four geographic regions. These statistics show the principal relationships between employment of individuals and their personal characteristics and family relationships, during a period of large-scale unemployment. Statistics showing the proportion in the labor force for various population groups in 1940 are useful for estimating the size and character of the actual and potential supply of labor. Data on the characteristics of workers who were wholly or partly unemployed at the time of the census, and on the length of their unemployment, are useful in the analysis of unemployment problems.

Related reports.—This is one of a series of reports which will be published under the general title, "The Labor Force: Sample Statistics." These reports supplement the labor force data presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled, "The Labor Force." The titles of other reports in this series, with a brief summary of the subjects covered, are given below.°

Employment and Family Characteristics of Women: Labor force status of working women by marital status and number of children according to age, education, and other personal and family characteristics, for the United States and for regions, and for metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more.

Employment and Family Characteristics of Married Men: Labor force status of working married men by marital status and number of children according to age, education, and other personal and family characteristics, for the United States and for regions, and for metropolitan districts of 100,000 or more.

Occupational Characteristics: Statistics on the occupational characteristics of the labor force, according to age, months worked in 1939, and other characteristics, for the United States and for regions; and the occupational structure of industries, showing a detailed occupation classification of employed workers in each industry for the United States.

Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for wage or salary workers by months worked in 1939, age, and other characteristics, for persons in the labor force, and for persons not in the labor force, for the United States, geographic divisions, States, and large cities.

Usual Occupation: Usual occupations of persons in the labor force and of those not in the labor force, including data for regions, States, and large cities.

Another report, based on sample tabulations, presents 1940 data pertinent to the problems of potential labor supply, and appears under the title indicated below.

Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force: Sex, age, color, marital status, household relationship, and data on previous employment, for persons not in the labor force, with an analysis of potential labor supply, for the United States and for regions.

Data on the characteristics of the labor force for States and cities of 100,000 or more, based on complete tabulations of the census returns, are presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population. This volume gives less detailed data than those presented here, on employment status by sex, age, color, and marital status, and on class of worker, hours worked in the census week, months worked in 1939, and duration of unemployment by sex and color; together with statistics on occupation, industry, and wage or salary income in 1939.

Additional statistics on personal characteristics of the labor force are presented in Volume IV of the Reports on Population, entitled "Labor Force: Characteristics by Age," which includes data on employment status, and on school attendance of employed workers, by age, sex, and color (in selected areas), for States and cities of 100,000 or more.

Condensed labor force statistics for cities and other urban places, metropolitan districts, and counties are given in Volume II of the Reports on Population, entitled "Families, Income, and Wealth," and in selected tabulations of samples of the returns of the 1940 Census of Population and Housing. Among the reports in this series which present labor force statistics are the following:

General Characteristics: Statistics for heads of families by employment status, major occupation group, and other characteristics; and for families classified according to family employment status, labor force status or children 14 to 17 years old, class-of-worker composition, family wage or salary income in 1939, and other characteristics; for States, cities of 100,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more.

Family Wage or Salary Income: Data for families by other personal characteristics of the family head, for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for families classified by characteristics of the family and of the family head, for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Areas.—Most of the statistics in this report are presented for the United States and for four regions: (a) the Northeastern States, comprising the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions; (b) the North Central States, comprising the East North Central and West North Central Divisions; (c) the South, comprising the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions; and (d) the West, comprising the Mountain and Pacific Divisions. In some cases figures for regions are omitted or are presented in condensed form because sampling variations are relatively large in the detailed cross-classifications for regions.

All of the statistics are presented separately for urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas. Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural, and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population.

Availability of unpublished data.—Some of the data obtained from the tabulations upon which the tables in this report are based have not been published, because larger sampling errors are to be expected in the more detailed cross-classifications for categories containing only a small number of persons. For this reason, some of the more detailed tables are presented for the United States only, and statistics for nonwhites in the Northeastern States, the North Central States, and the West.
DIAGRAM I.—EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 14 TO 74 YEARS OLD, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

(Based on smoothed age distributions)

SOURCE: TABLE I
INTRODUCTION

have been omitted from most of the tables. All of the statistics that are presented for the United States are available, however, in unpublished form for each region.

Some of the data are presented only for employed persons; those data are tabulated also for persons seeking work and for persons on public emergency work. Social security and unemployment are available for persons on public emergency work and for new workers, by age, although only the data for women were employed workers were used. Tabulations of months worked in 1959 by age, which are presented here only for the total or wage or salary workers (excluding those on public emergency work), are available for each classification by employment status during the census week.

Such of the unpublished figures as are considered reliable can be obtained upon request, for the nominal cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Request for such unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C., will receive a prompt reply, which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

LABOR FORCE CLASSIFICATION

In the 1940 Census of Population, persons 14 years old and over were classified on the basis of their activity during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, into two large groups: (a) Persons in the labor force, including those at work for pay or profit or at unpaid family work; those with a job or business from which they were temporarily absent; those on public emergency work; and those seeking work; and (b) persons not in the labor force. The latter group includes persons reported as engaged in own home housework, in school, or unable to work; occasional workers for whom the census week fell in the calendar year; all persons not in the labor force; and who were not seeking work; others not employed, nor on public emergency work, nor seeking work; all inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy, regardless of their activity during the census week; and persons for whom employment status was not reported. For more detailed descriptions of the categories of persons in the labor force, see "Employment status categories," below.

The labor force classification of the population 14 years old and over, by sex, is summarized for the United States and for urban and rural areas, in table I. Of the 103,016,740 persons aged 14 years old and over, 56,049,460 were in the labor force during the census week, and 46,966,680 were not in the labor force. The labor force was composed of 39,966,800 males, representing 79.1 percent of the male population 14 years old and over, and 13,007,480 female workers, or 20.8 percent of the female population 14 years old and over (table I). The proportion of women in the labor force was considerably larger in urban than in rural areas.

Table I. Labor Force Status of Persons 14 Years Old and Over, by Sex, for the United States, Urban, and Rural: March 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area and Sex</th>
<th>Population 14 Years Old and Over</th>
<th>In Labor Force</th>
<th>Not in Labor Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some several factors affect the interpretation of the 1940 census data on the labor force. In the first place, the census week fell in a season during which agricultural employment was at a comparatively low level. In the summer and early fall, the rural-labor force is considerably greater than in other classes, and farm children, once more engaged in their summer months, who were engaged in agricultural employment were classified on the basis of their activity during the census week. These persons for whom employment status was not reported. These have been classified as not in the labor force, since available evidence indicates that the majority of them were probably engaged in own home housework or in school. Some of the group, however, would probably have been classified as in the labor force, if the invasion had been made. The data on labor force status are hard to obtain for certain population groups, especially for women, children, and aged persons, and for unpaid family workers.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age and sex.-Age and sex classifications form an essential framework for the analysis of labor supply, because these two personal characteristics tend to determine the normal economic activities of individuals. A classification by sex is therefor

related to all the detailed tables in this report, and most of the tables include classifications by age. The age classification is based on age of the person at his last birthday before April 1, 1940, that is, in completed years. In the 1940 census tabulations, the category "age unknown" has been eliminated. When the age of a person was not reported, it was estimated on the basis of other information on the population schedules, such as marital status, school attendance, employment status, age, or other members in the family, etc.

The labor force status of the population in March 1940, by single years of age from 14 to 74, is illustrated in diagram 1. In the male population, the number in the labor force was very small at ages 14 and 15, and grew larger in the succeeding ages, and constituted a majority of the male population at 18 years of age. At age 25 only a small group of males remained in the labor force. Between the ages of 25 and 60, the number of men not in the labor force is considerably greater than that of the labor force, and there are considerable numbers retired or disabled. At ages 65 and over, the labor force is considerably smaller than that of the labor force. In the female population, the number in the labor force reached a maximum at 20 years, at which age nearly half of the women were in the labor force. After age 22 the female labor force was smaller in each successive year of age, as increasing numbers of women entered in various home housework. At age 45 only one-third as many women were in the labor force as at age 20, and in the ages 65 and over the labor force included only a very small number of women of retirement age. In rural-farm areas, boys and girls tend to enter the labor force at an earlier age than in urban areas. For males 15 years old, for example, the proportion in the labor force in March, 1940, was 38.0 percent in rural-farm areas, and only 4.9 percent in urban areas (table 1). This difference is attributable to the personal characteristics of the persons' ages and sex.

For farm women between 17 and 67 years of age the proportion in the labor force was higher than for women in nonfarm communities, so that the proportion in the labor force was highest at age 20, when 68.8 percent of urban, 67.9 percent of rural-nonfarm, and 25.9 percent of rural-farm women were in the labor force. These differences are due partly to the relatively limited opportunities for full-time employment of women in farming areas, partly to the greater numbers of women in farm families. A great many women in farming areas, of course, are engaged in some extent in farm work, if only in minor chores, and many of them are seasonal workers who enter the labor force for full-time work at certain times of the year. The departure of men from the labor force because of disability and retirement begins earlier and proceeds more rapidly in urban than in rural areas. For males 15 years old, for example, the proportion in the labor force in March, 1940, was 38.0 percent in rural-farm areas, and only 4.9 percent in urban areas (table 1). This difference is attributable to the personal characteristics of the persons' ages and sex.

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The term "simulation" according to work. The difficulty in classification was especially great in rural-farm areas, where it is often very hard to distinguish between work for pay or profit or unpaid family work on the one hand, and incidental farm chores and one's own home housework on the other.

Many students working part time after school hours were probably reported as in school and not in the labor force, and it was difficult in many cases to determine whether a person attending school was also seeking work. A very large proportion of the persons on the NSA Student Work Program were probably reported as in school instead of on public emergency work. On the other hand, a considerable number of women in farming areas who performed only incidental farm chores after school may have been included in the labor force as unpaid family workers.

For persons 65 years and over, and to some extent for those 55 to 64 years old, it was difficult to draw the line between able-bodied persons seeking work and disabled and retired persons no longer in the labor force. Moreover, many nonwhite age groups at the time of the census had been forced into retirement because of their inability to compete with younger workers, although they were still able and willing to work. These permanently unemployed workers are counted as part of the nation's unused labor supply, although they were not actively seeking work at the time of the census.

Color.—Because of the great difference between whites and nonwhites in economic status, occupational characteristics, and employment status, all of the detailed tables for the United States and for South, Midwest, and Northeast South include separate statistical groups for the various colors. Statistics on employment status by age and sex are also shown for nonwhites in the North-eastern States. Separate data for color and sex are shown for Mexican in the labor force.

In the nonwhite population, children, women, and aged persons participate in the labor force less than do the whites in the same age and sex groups. The tendency for nonwhite youths to enter the labor market at a comparatively early age is shown by the fact that 46.1 percent of the nonwhite boys 16 and 17 years old were in the labor force. However, there was a tendency for nonwhite children in rural-farm areas to be employed part time while attending school, which accentuates the difference between the figures for the two color groups.

Nonwhite women showed a marked tendency to remain in the labor force longer than white women. The proportion of nonwhite women in the labor force was almost the same in all of the age groups between 20 and 44 years, whereas for white women, the proportion in the labor force reached a maximum at age 30, and was much smaller in each succeeding age group. This difference can be attributed partly to economic factors, and partly to the fact that nonwhite women are employed largely as domestics and servants, and farm laborers—occupations in which opportunities for the employment of older women are comparatively favorable.

In rural areas, nonwhite men showed a tendency to remain in the labor force long after the peak for white men. In the group 55 to 60 years, 38.8 percent of the nonwhite and 26.3 percent of the white men in rural-farm areas were still in the labor force. The proportion of the labor force in the age group 50 to 60 was also smaller in each successive age group. This difference may have been partly due to good health among the urban nonwhites, causing a higher retirement rate for aged nonwhites in urban areas than for whites in rural areas. The insecurity of employment resulting from the comparatively low proportion of self-employed workers and employers in the urban nonwhite labor force.

The household composition of the population plays a large part in the size of the labor force. The normal responsibility of an individual as a breadwinner, a head of household, or a dependent is often fixed so rigidly by his age and family relationship that it cannot easily be adjusted to changes in labor force status or occupation. According to household relationship shown in this report illustrate the relation between family responsibilities and employment, and indicate the family problems involved in a major expansion of the labor force.

Household relationship classification.—The classification by household relationship is based on the marital status of the individual and his relationship to the head of the household in which he lived. The following relationship categories are shown in the tables in this report:

1. Head of private household.
2. Wife of head.
3. Other relative of head.
4. Nonrelative head.
5. Not in private household.

1. Head of private household.—The term "private household," as used in the 1940 census, includes the related family members and the unrelated lodgers, servants, or hired hands who live in the same dwelling unit and share common household arrangements. A person living alone, or a small group of unrelated persons sharing the same living quarters as "partners" is also counted as a private household. A family residing permanently or for an indefinite period in an apartment hotel is counted as a private household.

One person in each private household was designated as the household head, that is, the person regarded as the head by the members of the household. The head of a private household is the person who is considered as "householder" or "economic head" of the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or in the only adult member of the household. In the case of the white men in rural-farm areas, the composition and characteristics of the family.

2. Wife of head.—This category comprises the wives of heads of private households.

3. Other relative of head.—This group includes sons, daughters, parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, and all other persons (except wives) related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the head of the household in which they lived.

4. Nonrelative head.—This category comprises lodgers, servants, and other persons living in a small group of unrelated persons sharing the same living quarters as "partners." The last two groups are combined in some of the tables in this report to form the category "not in private household." Each of the categories is further classified by marital status, to show more precisely the status of the individual in the family and to give a clearer indication of probable responsibility for dependents. The few married women with husbands present who were classified as household heads are presented separately; these cases resulted from occasional errors in classification.

The statistics on household relationship given here differ from family statistics in that the data shown here are classified for the individual in the family and to give a clearer indication of probable responsibility for dependents. The few married women with husbands present who were classified for household heads are presented separately; these cases resulted from occasional errors in classification.

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married persons whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose husbands or wives were left abroad, husbands or wives of persons enumerated as inmates of institutions, and other married persons whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their husbands or wives, including soldiers, sailors, men in labor camps, etc., and their wives. In most of the tables in this report, married persons who were enumerated as separated with wife present are combined with widowed and divorced persons, since separated spouses are likely to be more or less financially independent.

The number of men classified as married with wife present was slightly greater than the number of women classified as married with husband present. The difference is due partly to the presence of some wives under 14 years of age, who are not included in the tabulations shown in this report; but it is due mainly to minor errors in the processing of the returns. For similar reasons, the number of male heads of households classified as married with wife present was slightly greater than the number of women listed as wives of household heads.

The difference is made up of married relatives with husband present, such as married daughters and daughters-in-law of heads, and of married women not living in private households.

Labor force status of household relationship groups.—The percentages in the labor force for persons in each relationship group, by age and sex, are summarized in table II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX AND HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP</th>
<th>Total, 14 to 44 years, and over</th>
<th>14 to 24 years</th>
<th>25 to 34 years</th>
<th>35 to 44 years</th>
<th>45 to 64 years</th>
<th>65 years and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of private household</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>69.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative of head</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>37.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>79.4</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not related to head, or not in private household</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>53.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Female                        | 85.9                            | 86.7          | 75.9          | 67.4          | 47.4          | 36.8            |
| Head of private household      | 84.6                            | 85.7          | 72.8          | 63.4          | 44.6          | 39.9            |
| Married, widowed, and divorced | 66.6                            | 66.9          | 58.0          | 46.8          | 38.7          | 37.0            |
| Wives of head                  | 83.5                            | 86.6          | 70.4          | 63.5          | 48.4          | 32.9            |
| Other relatives of head        | 78.3                            | 85.4          | 64.2          | 56.4          | 39.8          | 35.3            |
| Married, husband present       | 75.2                            | 81.2          | 66.7          | 58.8          | 49.6          | 39.1            |
| All other                      | 71.8                            | 77.4          | 65.6          | 56.6          | 44.1          | 37.9            |
| Not related to head, or not in private household | 69.1 | 79.7 | 70.2 | 69.3 | 60.8 | 58.9 |

The majority of the men between the ages of 18 and 64 in all relationship groups were in the labor force, but the proportion in the labor force was greatest for married heads of households with wife present. The percentage of such heads in the labor force was in the neighborhood of 98 percent in the age group 18 to 24 years, and over 90 percent in the age group 45 to 64 years. The percentage of all heads in the labor force was greatest for married heads or their relatives, and was partly because they may be able to share household responsibilities with other women in the home.

Labor force status of household relationship groups by age and sex.—The percentages in the labor force for persons in each relationship group, by age and sex, are shown in table II.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX AND HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP</th>
<th>Total, 14 to 44 years, and over</th>
<th>14 to 24 years</th>
<th>25 to 34 years</th>
<th>35 to 44 years</th>
<th>45 to 64 years</th>
<th>65 years and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of private household</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>69.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative of head</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>37.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married, husband present</td>
<td>79.4</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not related to head, or not in private household</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>53.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Female                        | 85.9                            | 86.7          | 75.9          | 67.4          | 47.4          | 36.8            |
| Head of private household      | 84.6                            | 85.7          | 72.8          | 63.4          | 44.6          | 39.9            |
| Married, widowed, and divorced | 66.6                            | 66.9          | 58.0          | 46.8          | 38.7          | 37.0            |
| Wives of head                  | 83.5                            | 86.6          | 70.4          | 63.5          | 48.4          | 32.9            |
| Other relatives of head        | 78.3                            | 85.4          | 64.2          | 56.4          | 39.8          | 35.3            |
| Married, husband present       | 75.2                            | 81.2          | 66.7          | 58.8          | 49.6          | 39.1            |
| All other                      | 71.8                            | 77.4          | 65.6          | 56.6          | 44.1          | 37.9            |
| Not related to head, or not in private household | 69.1 | 79.7 | 70.2 | 69.3 | 60.8 | 58.9 |
THE LABOR FORCE—SAMPLE STATISTICS

The high percentage in the labor force for women in the group, "not relative of head, or not in private household," is due partly to the fact that this group included servants "living in," all of whom were in the labor force.

TRENDS IN SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE LABOR FORCE

Major trends since the beginning of the century in the size of the national labor force and its personal characteristics are shown by a comparison of the proportions of persons in the labor force in various classes of the population in 1940 with similar data for gainful workers in 1930 and 1900. Although detailed comparative data from previous censuses are not included in this report, such comparisons for urban and rural areas and for regions can be made by reference to the publications of 1900 and earlier censuses. Limited comparisons by age, sex, color, and marital status are presented below.

Comparability of 1940 data on the labor force with previous census data for gainful workers.—The 1940 data on the labor force are not directly comparable with the census statistics for gainful workers in 1930 and earlier years, partly because of differences in definition. The statistics shown in this report for gainful workers in 1940 were obtained by means of questions regarding occupation rather than employment status. While more than 90 percent of gainful workers were classified as "regular work" in the labor market during the week of the census, the proportion classified as "regular work" was higher in the labor force in 1940 than in earlier years.

For men between 25 and 44 years of age, the proportion of gainful workers in 1940 was at least partly offset by the groups included among gainful workers in 1930. The following are the most important types of persons for whom the 1940 labor force classification differs from the gainful worker classification in earlier censuses:

1. Gainful workers—Persons not working or seeking work at the time of the census were not included in the labor force. Such persons were counted as gainful workers in earlier censuses if they reported an occupation.

2. Nongainful workers—Persons without occupation and seeking work were included in the 1940 labor force; most such persons were excluded from gainful workers in earlier censuses.

b. Type of Institution.—In 1940, all inmates of certain types of institutions were excluded from the labor force. In earlier censuses such persons were counted as gainful workers if they did regular work in the institution.

c. Clarification of Definitions.—In earlier censuses many such persons were excluded from earlier censuses because they failed to report their occupations.

These differences probably do not seriously affect the comparison of the total labor force in 1940 with census total numbers of gainful workers in 1930 and earlier years, since the groups classified as in the labor force but not counted as gainful workers at least partly offset the groups included among gainful workers that were excluded from the 1940 labor force. For particular age and sex classes of the population, however, the number reported as in the labor force in 1940 may have been far different from the number that could have been counted as gainful workers if the 1900 procedure had been used.

The 1940 labor force figures are restricted to persons 14 years old and over, whereas the number of gainful workers shown in earlier censuses included persons 10 years old and over. The number of workers 10 to 15 years old has become relatively small and no longer justifies the additional burden of enumeration and tabulation necessary to retain the 10-year age limit. In making comparisons between the 1940 labor force and gainful worker statistics in earlier census reports, the slight difference in age limits should be taken into consideration.

The statistics shown in this report for earlier censuses have been adjusted to exclude those 14 to 15 years old.

Changes in census dates affect the comparison of 1940 data with those for earlier years. In 1900 the census was taken on the first Monday in the month. In 1910 it was taken on June 1, whereas in 1920 it was taken on April 1, and in 1930 on March 1. In 1940 the census day was April 1. These changes may have had a pronounced effect, especially in agricultural areas, on the size of the group returned as gainful workers.

Labor force trends by age and sex.—In 1930, 84.1 percent of the males 14 years old and over were reported as gainful workers; in 1940, only 75.1 percent were classified as in the labor force. The corresponding figures for females were 24.3 percent in 1930 and 25.3 percent in 1940. These differences indicate a continuation of the trend toward increased female participation in the labor market on the part of males and increased participation on the part of females (table III).

Table III. Percent of population in the labor force, March 1940, and percent gainful workers, 1900 and 1930, by age and sex, for the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE AND SEX</th>
<th>1900</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male, 14 and over</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>84.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 to 15 years</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 20 years</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 24 years</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>54.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>59.3</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>59.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>61.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, 14 and over</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 to 15 years</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 20 years</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 24 years</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>31.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For males in every age class, the percentage in the labor force in 1940 was below the corresponding percentage of gainful workers in 1930, but the difference was greatest among boys 14 to 20 and men 55 years of age and over. Sharp decreases in the proportion of workers among boys under 21 years old continued a long-term decline for this age group, which is associated with the extension of child-labor legislation and advancing educational standards. Even greater decreases for men 55 years and over represented a continuation of the trend toward earlier retirement, which has been in progress for many decades.

For women in every age class, the percentage in the labor force in 1940 was below the corresponding percentage of gainful workers in 1930, but the difference was greatest among women 20 to 24 and 65 years of age and over. Sharp decreases in the proportion of workers among women under 21 years old continued a long-term decline for this age group, which is associated with the extension of child-labor legislation and advancing educational standards. Even greater decreases for women 55 years and over represented a continuation of the trend toward earlier retirement, which has been in progress for many decades.

Trends in the nonwhite labor force.—In the nonwhite labor force, the percentage of gainful workers increased very slightly between 1900 and 1930, to 13.2 percent for nonwhite males 14 to 17 and to 9.1 percent for nonwhite females 14 to 17. For nonwhite males 14 to 17, the proportion of gainful workers was below the corresponding percentage of gainful workers in 1930 for the earlier census period.

For nonwhite males 14 to 17, the proportion of gainful workers varied very little between 1930 and 1940, in the proportion in the labor force in 1940 was only slightly lower than the 1930 percentage of gainful workers. In previous decades, the percentage for men in this age class remained fairly constant, increasing very slightly between 1900 and 1930. The change between 1930 and 1940 for this group was probably due mainly to differences in the questions and definitions used. The amount of change in the proportion of women 14 to 17 was even less; the percentage of gainful workers 14 to 17 and over was also probably affected by differences in the questions and definitions used.

In the female population, decreases between 1930 and 1940 in the proportion of workers were confined to the age classes 14 to 20 and 65 years and over. Substantial increases occurred in the age groups between 21 and 44 years, and slight increases in those between 45 and 64 years. These increases were in accord with the long-term trend toward increasing employment of women, which has been in progress for at least half a century. Among the factors associated with this trend are decreases in the birth rate, increasing urbanization, and the introduction of modern housekeeping aids.

Trends in the nonwhite labor force.—In the nonwhite population, the percentages in the labor force decreased for males and for females, and the decrease for males was much greater than that of the white population. Of nonwhite males 14 to 24 years old, 21.6 percent were classified as gainful workers in 1930 and only 8.0 percent were in the labor force in 1940; the corresponding percentages for whites were 13.5 and 79.0 in 1930 and 79.0 in 1940 (table IV). Sharp declines occurred in the percentages for nonwhite males 15 to 17 and 65 years old and over. The percentages for nonwhite males declined in all age classes except those between 25 and 34, in which the 1940 proportions were about the same as the 1930 proportions of gainful workers. For white women, by contrast, the percentages increased in all of the age groups from 18 to 64 years.
These trends greatly reduced the differential between the two racial groups in the extent of participation in the labor market on the part of children, older men, and women 25 years old and over. The tendency toward equalization of the white and nonwhite percentages in the labor force was attributable partly to the migration of Negroes into urban areas, where the employment of children and aged workers is much less common than in rural areas. An important factor tending to reduce the differential for children 14 to 17 was the increase in school attendance of nonwhite children. On the other hand, the differences in the questions and definitions used in the two censuses may have affected the classification of nonwhites differently from that of whites.

Increase of married women in the labor force.—Increased employment of married women has been the principal source of the rise in the proportion of workers in the female population, which has continued at least since 1870. During the first 30 years of this century, the percentage of married women gainfully occupied more than doubled, rising from 5.6 percent in 1900 to 11.7 percent in 1930. There was also a concomitant increase in the employment of unmarried women. The proportion for single women 14 years old and over rose from 40.9 to 64.1 percent.8

The influx of married women into the labor market continued at an even faster rate between 1930 and 1940 than in earlier decades. During this decade the proportion of workers among married women jumped from 11.7 to 15.2 percent. The acceleration of the historic trend was probably due mainly to further declines in the birth rate, and to the tendency toward smaller homes and the spread of household conveniences such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners, which greatly lighten the burden of housekeeping. Moreover, during this decade of large-scale unemployment, some married women may have been forced to work because their husbands lost their jobs.

Among single women, the proportion in the labor force in 1940 was about the same as the proportion of gainful workers in 1930. Among widowed and divorced women, the percentage declined from 36.4 in 1930 to 29.7 in 1940. This decline was due partly to the fact that a relatively large proportion of widowed and divorced women are in the age class 65 years and over, in which the percentage of workers was falling off for all classes of the population. The decline for widowed and divorced women may have resulted also partly from differences in the questions and definitions used in the 1930 and 1940 censuses.

Employment Status

Employment status categories.—The employment status categories of persons in the labor force are defined below: Employed (except on public emergency work) includes all persons classified as employed, and the following categories: (a) "At work"—persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and (b) "With a job but not at work"—persons who had a job or assignment to public emergency work but were not on the job or engaged in work on the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, with work or a job at some time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off not exceeding 4 weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. The group "employed (except on public emergency work)" includes not only employees but also proprietors, farmers, other self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers.

On public emergency work.—This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Seeking work.—This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week. It also includes persons not actively seeking work because they were too ill to work, such as unemployed workers in one-industry communities in which the plants were shut down; and persons not actively seeking work because of temporary illness.

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8 The data on marital status of the female population and of female gainful workers, presented in this chapter for 1930 and earlier years, refer to women 15 years old and over. The percentages quoted here for women 14 years old and over in 1900 and 1930 have been estimated on the assumption that all females 14 years of age were single.
The group seeking work is subdivided into experienced workers, the latter being persons who had not previously worked full time for one month or more. (See "New workers," below.)

The proportion employed was greatest in rural-farm areas, where 91.8 percent of the labor force were employed. The comparatively high percentage employed in the rural-farm labor force is attributable mainly to the fact that farmers and unpaid family workers are relatively free from the risk of complete unemployment. Because of the misclassification of public emergency work, the number of persons on pay rolls of the Federal emergency work agencies at the time of the census was 2,906,196, whereas the number on pay rolls in March 1940, 1,381,460 in 1940, if persons on the NYA Student Work Program are excluded, or 4,871,788 if the persons on that program are regarded as unemployed.

The distribution of the labor force by employment status is shown in Table V for the rural and urban areas. During the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, 85.7 percent of the labor force in the United States were employed (except on public emergency work). The proportion employed was greatest in rural-farm areas, where 91.8 percent of the labor force were employed; only 94.7 percent of the urban, and 95.4 percent of the rural-nonfarm labor force were employed. The comparatively high percentage employed in the rural-farm labor force is attributable mainly to the fact that farmers and unpaid family workers are relatively free from the risk of complete unemployment.

There were 5,132,480 persons, or 9.7 percent of the labor force, who were seeking work during the census week. Of these, 3,619,380 were in urban areas, 1,045,240 were in rural-nonfarm, and 467,860 were in rural-farm areas. The geographical distribution of persons seeking work was affected by migration of unemployed workers. Some of the persons seeking work in urban areas, and probably also some of those in rural-nonfarm communities, had migrated from farms to look for jobs.

Misclassification of persons on public emergency work. In the interpretation of the data for persons on public emergency work, allowance must be made for the misclassification in the census returns of considerable numbers of public emergency workers. The number of persons reported in the census as on public emergency work agencies at the time of the census was 2,906,196 (complete count of the census returns) was 2,580,606, whereas the number reported on the pay rolls of the Federal emergency work agencies at the time of the census was 2,452,440, 1,381,460 in 1940, if persons on the NYA Student Work Program are excluded, or 3,088,340 in 1940, if persons on that program are regarded as unemployed. The available evidence on the importance of these factors indicates that their net effect upon the total volume of unemployment was small.

New workers. Persons seeking work are subdivided into experienced workers and new workers, the latter being persons who had not previously worked full time for one month or more at a single job. Persons seeking work for whom a report on work experience was lacking were classified as experienced workers. New workers represent a serious problem in periods of large-scale unemployment, because lack of work experience is one of the chief handicaps of young people trying to gain a foothold in the labor market at such times. The total seeking work in March 1940, included 4,601,950 experienced workers and 750,990 new workers; practically all of the latter were under 25 years of age. The term "new worker" is used in the tables in this report to include those persons 16 and 17 years old in the labor force who were seeking work for whom a report was made about the characteristics of employed and unemployed workers. The proportion of new workers was greatest in age groups of the labor force. The age difference in unemployment rates reflect the difficulties encountered by inexperienced young workers trying to gain a foothold in the labor market during this period, and by older workers handicapped in the competition for jobs by old age and disability.

The relationship between age and unemployment at the time of the census is illustrated in diagrams 1 and 2, which shows the percentages seeking work or on public emergency work for various age groups of the labor force. The impact of unemployment was most severe upon young people and upon those approaching the age of retirement. The proportion unemployed was greatest for persons 16 and 17 years old; 39.4 percent of the labor force in this age group were reported as seeking work or on public emergency work. The proportions for the various age groups were highest under the age of 44 years. There were new workers who had never held a full-time job for one month or more. Of persons 56 to 64 years old in the labor force, 14.6 percent were unemployed. Unemployment rates were lowest for the labor force classed as "retired" (above 44 years).

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The age difference in unemployment rates reflect the difficulties encountered by inexperienced young workers trying to gain a foothold in the labor market during this period, and by older workers handicapped in the competition for jobs by old age and disability.

A considerable amount of unemployment among young people is almost inevitable in the process of leaving school and entering the labor force, even in times of relatively full employment. At the time of the 1940 census, the number of persons annually entering the labor force, at each single year of age in the group 16 to 12 years, exceeded the number who found jobs at that age, so that the number reported as seeking work or on public emergency work was greater for each successive age (diagram 1). The turning point was reached at age 20, when the increase in the number of young persons employed exceeded the increase in the labor force, so that the number seeking work or on public emergency work was less than in the preceding year of age.

From 20 to about 35 years of age, the number of males unemployed grew smaller in each succeeding age. Between the ages of 35 and 44, it remained almost constant, but since the number of males in the labor force was smaller in each successive age, the unemployed formed a growing proportion of the labor force. Between about 45 and 65 years, the number of unemployed men began to decrease from age to age, but the number in the labor force continued to increase, so that the proportion continued to increase as a percentage of the labor force. After about age 65, the age-to-age decrease in unemployment exceeded the
DIAGRAM 2.- PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE SEEKING WORK AND ON PUBLIC EMERGENCY WORK, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

DIAGRAM 3.- PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY CLASS OF WORKER FOR THE EXPERIENCED LABOR FORCE, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

SOURCE: TABLE 11
decrease in the labor force, so that both the number and the proportion unemployed dwindled to small figures at ages over 70. The unemployed do not include older men who had given up the search for jobs because they could not compete with younger workers. Nor do they include women who, because women tended to leave the labor force at earlier ages, the majority of whom were employers and self-employed persons not subject to unemployment, and in which the number of women unemployed was greater than the decrease in the female labor force, so that the proportion of women unemployed fell off.

Unemployment rates were higher for nonwhites than for whites. Persons reported as seeking work or on public emergency work represented 16.8 percent of the nonwhite labor force, and 14.0 percent of the white labor force (table 14). This differential is in the incidence of unemployment in the two racial groups existed in spite of the fact that a relatively large part of the nonwhite population lives in farming areas, where it was comparatively easy to find some work, if only as an unpaid helper on the family farm. The difference was much greater in urban areas, where 23.1 percent of the nonwhite and only 14.5 percent of the white labor force were reported as unemployed. In rural-farm areas the unemployment rate was lower for nonwhite workers than for whites.

Unemployment was especially severe among nonwhite workers in the Northern cities and urban areas of the North Central States, 33.8 percent of the nonwhite labor force being unemployed or on public emergency work, as compared with 15.7 percent for the whites (table 14). Nonwhites in Northern cities were handicapped in the competition for employment by the preference of most employers for white workers, and by their comparative lack of education and skill. Large proportions of them were unskilled laborers and domestic service workers—occupations in which unemployment rates were comparatively high.

Household relationships of employed and unemployed workers.—Statistics on employment status of persons in the labor force by household relationship are given in this report in order to indicate the incidence of unemployment among workers with dependents. Additional information on this subject is presented in the publications giving statistics for families.

Unemployment was comparatively uncommon among household heads, most of whom were breadwinners responsible for supporting a family, and among self-supporting groups such as lodgers and other nonrelatives of heads. Only 11.4 percent of the male heads of households in the labor force were seeking work or on public emergency work, whereas the corresponding figure for male relatives of heads was 23.8 percent, and for female relatives (other than wives), 19.7 percent (table 19). In the Southern States, the proportion unemployed was considerably lower for male heads who were married and living with their wives, of whom 10.7 percent were unemployed, than for other male heads, of whom 15.6 percent were unemployed (table 19).

These differences are attributable partly to the fact that most of the relatives of heads were young persons, but by no means all of the differential was due to this factor, since the proportions unemployed in each separate age class were much higher for male relatives than for household heads. Special consideration for persons with dependents on the part of employers hiring or laying off workers was probably an important cause of the differences. Other factors were the relatively high proportion of employers and own-account workers among household heads, and differences in the occupational characteristics of workers in the various relationship categories. Wives of household heads presented an exception to the rule of comparatively high unemployment rates for the relationship groups composed primarily of dependents; only 6.3 percent of the wives of labor force workers were reported as seeking work or on public emergency work. The figures for wives seeking work were probably reduced by a tendency on the part of some enumerators to record wives engaged in own home housework and not in the labor force as if they were actually employed during the census week, neglecting the possibility that they might have been also seeking work.

The proportion of unemployed workers responsible for the support of dependents is an important consideration in the analysis of the economic impact of unemployment, and of the resulting need for public assistance. In March 1940, 43.4 percent of those persons reported as seeking work or on public emergency work were household heads; 44.5 percent were men, usually the heads of households, employers, or own-account workers; and 2.7 percent were wives of heads. The remaining 9.1 percent were boarders, lodgers, residents of institutions, and other persons not related to household heads. A relatively large proportion of these persons were unemployed on public emergency work because preference in emergency work assignments was usually given to the principal breadwinners.

### CLASS OF WORKER AND MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP

#### Class-of-worker categories.

In the tables in this report giving statistics by class of worker, the experienced labor force is subclassified into wage or salary workers, own-account workers, and unpaid family workers. For employed workers and for those on public emergency work, the classification by class of worker refers to their current work or job during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. For experienced workers seeking work, it refers to the last job of 1 month or more. New workers are not classified by class of worker. The composition of such category is described below:

- **Wage or salary workers.** This class consists of persons who in their current or last job, worked as employees for wages or salary (in cash or kind). It includes not only factory operatives, laborers, and workers who worked for wages, but also persons working for tips or for room and board, salesmen and other employees working for commissions, and salaried business managers, corporation executives, and government officials. Among class-of-worker workers on public emergency work, all persons who were classified as wage or salary workers.

- **Employers and own-account workers.** This group consists of persons who, in their current or last work, operated their own business enterprises. It includes not only the owner-operators of large stores and manufacturing establishments, but also small merchants, independent craftsmen, farmers, professional men, peddlers, and other persons conducting enterprises of their own. It does not include managers paid to operate businesses owned by other persons or by corporations. For census purposes, such managers are classified as wage or salary workers.

#### Unpaid family workers.

Enumerators were instructed to classify as unpaid family workers, persons who during the period of the census were employed on public emergency work are classified as wage or salary workers.

- **Employers and own-account workers.** This group consists of persons who, in their current or last work, operated their own business enterprises. It includes not only the owner-operators of large stores and manufacturing establishments, but also small merchants, independent craftsmen, farmers, professional men, peddlers, and other persons conducting enterprises of their own. It does not include managers paid to operate businesses owned by other persons or by corporations. For census purposes, such managers are classified as wage or salary workers.

#### Table VI. Class of worker in the labor force, by sex, for the United States: March 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Worker</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total worker</td>
<td>52,568,440</td>
<td>29,956,000</td>
<td>22,612,440</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced labor force</td>
<td>52,568,440</td>
<td>29,956,000</td>
<td>22,612,440</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>40,174,060</td>
<td>23,883,980</td>
<td>16,290,080</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed workers</td>
<td>38,525,480</td>
<td>22,092,460</td>
<td>16,433,020</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own-account workers</td>
<td>2,452,440</td>
<td>2,003,540</td>
<td>448,900</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>1,380,540</td>
<td>831,440</td>
<td>549,100</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New workers</td>
<td>210,620</td>
<td>144,980</td>
<td>65,640</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In rural areas, the class-of-worker composition of the labor force differs enormously from that in urban areas, because of differences in occupational characteristics and in the distribution of occupations.
tation of trade and industry. In urban areas, wage or salary workers formed 88.6 percent of the experienced labor force, and only 10.8 percent were employers and own-account workers (table 11). In rural-farm areas, employers and own-account workers constituted 14.2 percent of the labor force; in such areas there are many small merchants and independent blacksmiths, carpenters, repairmen, etc. In rural-farm areas, 49.7 percent of the employed labor force were employers and own-account workers, the great majority of whom were farmers; and 11.1 percent of the experienced labor force were unpaid family workers. In rural and rural-nonfarm areas the proportion of unpaid family workers tended to increase.

In some cases it was difficult for enumerators to determine accurately the class of worker. Wage or salary workers in some occupations, such as salaried working for commissions, were hard to distinguish from independent workers on such grounds as the form of compensation or of relationships with employers. Some enumerators tended to return as employers, employees, such as executives, managers, and foremen, who were responsible for hiring and discharging worker workers. Unpaid family workers were sometimes classified as own-account workers by enumerators who regarded all workers in the family enterprise as partners. The returns were carefully edited with reference to the occupation and industry returns and other information given on the schedule, but not all of the inaccuracies could be corrected. The class-of-worker data should therefore be interpreted with some caution.

In the tables in this report, persons for whom class of worker was not reported have been included among private wage or salary workers, unless there was evidence to the contrary. In table 11, the returns for the 19.1 percent of the respondents who were unemployed (except those on public emergency work) for whom class of worker could not be determined were shown separately for each State, city, and county. The number of employed persons for whom class of worker could not be determined was 239,108, or 0.5 percent of the total employed, according to the complete count of the census returns.

Employment status of class-of-worker groups.— The risk of complete unemployment is far greater for wage or salary workers than for employers, own-account workers, and unpaid family workers because the groups with the higher proportions of persons in the labor force are likely to be heads of family enterprises for only when they (or their relatives operating the family enterprise) are forced out of business. Thus 16.2 percent of the wage or salary workers in the United States were seeking work or on public emergency work in the census week, but only 2.3 percent of the employers and own-account workers and 1.5 percent of the unpaid family workers were seeking work (table 11). The comparative immunity of self-employed workers to total unemployment does not necessarily mean that their economic situation was favorable, since they may have made very small gains or even suffered heavy losses while they remained in business. Moreover, the proportion of the uninsured workers who have contributed little to the profits of the family enterprise. Unpaid family work was often better than a share of the profits for some and daughters of farmers and of other self-employed workers, but not necessarily so for the labor force of those who are the heads of the household. Because of these differences in unemployment risks, the class-of-worker composition of the labor force should be taken into account in the analysis of data on employment status.

The figures shown in table 11 do not provide the basis for a precise comparison of the unemployment rates for the various class-of-worker groups, because persons on public emergency work, who are by definition wage or salary workers, are included in the proportion unemployed for wage or salary workers, although some of them may be employed, own-account workers, or unpaid family workers before they became unemployed. Allowance for this factor, however, would not greatly affect the contrast between the unemployment rates of wage or salary workers and other workers.

The importance of the relationship between the employment-status distribution of the labor force and its class-of-worker composition is illustrated by table VII, which presents percentages of unemployed for the labor force in urban and rural areas, compared with the corresponding percentages for wage or salary workers.

In rural-farm areas the proportion of the total labor force reported in the census week unemployed by household relationship was 1 percent among urban areas, because the majority of the rural-farm workers were employers, own-account workers, and unpaid family workers. For wage or salary workers, the proportion reported as seeking work or on public emergency work in the census week was considerably greater than that in urban areas.

It should also be borne in mind that the opportunity to work as an unpaid helper on the family farm when other work failed to be available would have been engaged in other work if more paid jobs had been available on neighboring farms or in industry and trade.

Table VII. Percent seeking work on or during week for all persons in the labor force and for wage or salary workers, by sex, for the United States, urban and rural: March 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percent of Labor Force Seeking Work or on Public Emergency Work</th>
<th>Percent of Wage or Salary Workers Seeking Work or on Public Emergency Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural-Farm</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal characteristics of class-of-worker groups.— There is a tendency for workers to shift from jobs as employees to independent work as employers and own-account workers as they grow older. This tendency is illustrated in diagram 5. Very few of the 26 years of age were employers or own-account workers during the census week, but in the succeeding years the proportion of such workers was progressively larger, so that at ages of 75 years and over they constituted 25.8 percent of the male and 26.4 percent of the female labor force. This pronounced tendency for self-employed workers and employers to remain in the labor force longer than wage or salary workers.

The high proportion of employers and own-account workers in the unpaid family group was attributable only to shifts of individuals from jobs as employees to the operation of independent enterprises, but it was probably also partly due to the tendency for self-employed workers and employers to remain in the labor force longer than wage or salary workers.

In urban areas, only 7.4 percent of the nonwhite experienced workers, as compared with 11.2 percent of the whites, were employers and own-account workers. In rural-farm areas, the nonwhite labor force was more differentially divided between employed workers, and a much larger percentage of unpaid family workers than the white labor force. Unpaid family workers constituted 38.2 percent of the nonwhites and only 21.0 percent of the whites. Families in the rural-farm experienced labor force. The corresponding figures for males were 13.3 percent for nonwhites and 9.6 percent for whites. Most nonwhite farmers are engaged in relatively small farming operations, in which they rely to a large extent upon family labor.

Household relationships of class-of-worker groups.— The majority of employers and self-employed workers are heads of households. Employers and own-account workers made up 32.4 percent of the male and 22.6 percent of the female heads of households who were employed (except on public emergency work) during the census week. The corresponding proportion for male relatives of heads was 12.4 percent; for wives of heads it was 11.0 percent, and for female relatives other than wives, only 6.4 percent (table 27). The tendency for employers and own-account workers to be heads of households is explained partly by the fact that both household heads and employers and own-account workers are groups composed primarily of older men, and partly by the fact that in a family enterprise, the person responsible for the operation of the business is likely to be regarded as the household head.

In the distribution of unemployment by household relationship of unpaid family workers differed markedly in urban and rural areas. In rural-farm areas, 91.2 percent of the unpaid family workers employed during the census week were sons, daughters, and other relatives of employers; in other rural areas only 8.2 percent were wives of heads. In urban areas, the employment of children in family enterprises was much less common; here wives of heads, chiefly the wives of retail store proprietors, made up 27.7 percent of
THE LABOR FORCE—SAMPLE STATISTICS

The data on months worked in 1939 provide a measure of part-time work in a full year, taking account of seasonal and other intermittent employment and of monthly variations in unemployment, which are not taken into account in the statistics relating to activity during the census period. The information on work in 1939 was obtained for all persons 14 years old and over (except those in institutions), including persons not in the labor force as well as those who were in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940.

The reports were made in terms of equivalent full-time weeks of work for pay or profit, including public emergency work and unpaid family work. A full-time week was defined as the number of hours, less absences with pay, worked in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, as shown by the report entitled "The Labor Force,"

With respect to work in 1939: persons employed part time during all or a part of the year; seasonal workers, including persons not in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and persons who were unemployed during the census week, and since there were 11,114,000 persons 14 years old and over not in institutions for whom reports on this subject were lacking.

The great majority of the 37,957 paid family workers, the number of hours worked in 1939, were not in the labor force at the time of the census, the data on work in 1939 were incomplete, and that many of those who reported that they had worked in 1939; persons employed part time during all or a part of the year; seasonal workers, including persons not in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and persons who were unemployed during the census week, and since there were 11,114,000 persons 14 years old and over not in institutions for whom reports on this subject were lacking.

The 24 to 35 weeks, and 50 to 52 weeks.

Of the 24,000,000 persons who worked 12 months and 20,342,660 who worked less than 12 months. Those who worked less than the full year included persons who were seeking work at some time in 1939; persons employed part time during all or a part of the year; new entrants into the labor force who began to work in 1939; persons not in the labor force at the time of the census, the data on work in 1939 were incomplete, and that many of those who reported that they had worked in 1939; persons employed part time during all or a part of the year; seasonal workers, including persons not in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and persons who were unemployed during the census week, and since there were 11,114,000 persons 14 years old and over not in institutions for whom reports on this subject were lacking.

The group reported as having worked in 1939 was made up of 20,456,000 persons who worked 12 months and 20,342,660 who worked less than 12 months. Those who worked less than the full year included persons who were seeking work at some time in 1939; persons employed part time during all or a part of the year; new entrants into the labor force who began to work in 1939; persons who became disabled, retired, or otherwise withdrew from the labor force during that year; seasonal workers

Less, they probably give a reasonably accurate picture of the personal characteristics of part-time workers.

MONTHS WORKED IN 1939

The number of months worked in 1939 by persons 14 years old and over was obtained by multiplying the number of hours worked in 1939, for all persons 14 years old and over (except on public emergency work) during that week, and (b) those working 20 to 30 weeks, and 50 to 52 weeks.

The data on months worked in 1939 for persons 14 years old and over, classified by employment status during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, are summarized in Table V. There were 50,600,660 persons, representing 50.9 per cent of the population 14 years old and over (excluding inmates of institutions), who reported that they had worked in 1939. The actual total of persons who had worked at some time during that year was probably somewhat greater than this figure, since information on work in 1939 was not obtained for persons in institutions during the census week, and since there were 11,114,000 persons 14 years old and over not in institutions for whom reports on this subject were lacking.

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Less, they probably give a reasonably accurate picture of the personal characteristics of part-time workers.
INTRODUCTION

DIAGRAM 4.—PERCENT REPORTING LESS THAN 40 HOURS WORKED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24-30, 1940, BY HOURS WORKED, FOR PERSONS AT WORK, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

DIAGRAM 5.—PERCENT REPORTING LESS THAN 12 MONTHS WORK IN 1939 BY MONTHS WORKED, FOR PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY WORKERS IN MARCH 1940, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES
regularly employed for only a part of the year; and miscellaneous intermittent workers, such as women who took temporary jobs and withdrew from the labor market when not employed. Of the persons who reported they were employed in 1939, 8.2 percent were not in labor force during the census week.

**Table VIII. Months worked in 1939 by persons 14 years old and over (except persons in institutions), by employment status in March 1940, for the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTHS WORKED</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Nonemployment</th>
<th>Seeking work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No work in 1939</td>
<td>97,968,000</td>
<td>5,465,000</td>
<td>3,403,000</td>
<td>5,060,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2 months</td>
<td>204,000</td>
<td>46,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>43,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>1,014,000</td>
<td>467,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>374,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>1,333,000</td>
<td>606,000</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or 5 months</td>
<td>2,387,000</td>
<td>1,631,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>502,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 9 months</td>
<td>3,146,000</td>
<td>1,706,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>526,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 11 months</td>
<td>5,035,000</td>
<td>3,975,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>922,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>10,056,000</td>
<td>8,738,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>922,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in 1939 not reported</td>
<td>11,116,000</td>
<td>1,090,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>970,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Personal characteristics of part-time workers.—** The relationship between part-time employment and age is shown in diagram 1, in terms of hours worked by persons at work during the census week among those workers who were employed part time in 1939 by wage or salary workers. Both diagrams indicate that part-time work was most prevalent among workers under 20 years of age, and was also comparatively common among persons nearing the age of retirement. The relation between age and part-time work was similar to that between age and unemployment during the census week (diagram 2), except in the age groups 65 years and over. In those older groups, part-time employment tended to increase with advancing age, whereas unemployment declined because of retirements from the labor force.

The exceedingly high proportion of persons under 20 years of age who worked less than 30 hours in the census week was due largely to the employment of students in part-time jobs outside of school hours. The large proportion of wage or salary workers under 20 years old who worked less than three months in 1939 represents partly those employed school hours, partly those employed during school vacations, and partly young persons who had entered the labor force as full-time workers since the beginning of 1939.

Very few men 25 to 54 years of age were employed less than 30 hours during the census week or worked less than six months in 1939, but part-time work for young persons in these age groups was fairly common. Such young persons held part-time jobs in stores, schools, etc., in addition to keeping house, and many of them were seasonal workers.

The relatively large proportions of persons engaged in intermittent and short-time employment for wages or salary in 1939 and over was probably attributable mainly to a high incidence of temporary disabilities, and to physical handicaps which forced some older workers to work only a few hours a week, or a few weeks in the year. The proportion of workers who worked in the census week was also considerably greater among older than among younger workers (table 12).

Among nonwhite workers, the proportions employed part time, like the proportions unemployed, were considerably greater than among whites. Persons working less than 40 hours represented 16.0 percent of the nonwhite males, as compared with 14.7 percent of the white males at work (except on public emergency work) during the census week (table 29). In the case of females, the difference was even greater; the percentages working less than 40 hours were 22.7 percent for nonwhites and 6.5 percent for whites.

Household relationships of part-time workers.—Part-time, seasonal, and other intermittent employment in 1939, like unemployment at the time of the census, were most common among workers employed in some occupations on a temporary basis; and among dependents. For example, 85.7 percent of the male relatives of household heads and 50.2 percent of the female relatives of those workers who were wage or salary workers at the time of the census, reported that they had not worked, or had worked less than twelve months in 1939. For female heads of households, the corresponding figure was only 36.4 percent (table 34). For wives of household heads, the proportion not working or working less than twelve months (51.7 percent) was even higher than for other female relatives although comparatively few wives were reported as unemployed during the census week.

**Duration of unemployment**

Data on duration of unemployment are shown in this report for wages or salary workers seeking work, by age, color, and sex. No comparable data were presented here for employers, own-account workers, unpaid family workers, or new workers seeking work, nor for persons on public emergency work. For such workers, data on duration of unemployment are less significant and tend to be unreliable. Table 22 shows the distribution of the workers in these groups failed to report duration of unemployment.

Duration of unemployment for wage or salary workers seeking work represents the length of time (up to March 30, 1940) during which they had been seeking work or working on public emergency projects; that is, the length of time since the end of
the last full-time private or nonemergency Government job of
one month or more.
Duration of unemployment was reported on the 1940 census
schedules in terms of weeks, but in this report the data are
presented in terms of months.* The classes of duration of un-
employment that are used, and their equivalents in terms of
weeks as reported, are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration in months</th>
<th>Reported duration in weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 month</td>
<td>Under 5 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>3 to 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>7 to 12 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>11 to 16 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 and 5 months</td>
<td>15 to 20 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 8 months</td>
<td>24 to 32 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 11 months</td>
<td>36 to 44 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 15 months</td>
<td>48 to 56 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 35 months</td>
<td>100 to 140 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 60 months</td>
<td>150 to 210 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 or more months</td>
<td>250 or more weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The median duration of unemployment of wage or salary workers
who were seeking work at the time of the census was seven
months. (The median duration is the number of months which
divides the group into two equal parts, one-half having been un-
employed for a shorter period and one-half for a longer period
than the median.) The median duration of unemployment is shown
in diagram 6 for wage or salary workers seeking work, classi-
fied by age. Up to age 25, the median duration was about six
months, but in each successive age group above 35 years the
median was greater, and it exceeded fourteen months in the age
class 75 years and over.

DIAGRAM 6.—MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR WAGE OR SALARY WORKERS SEEKING WORK,
BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

A comparison of the medians shown in diagram 6 and the per-
centages unemployed for various age groups of the labor force,
shown in Diagram 2, reveals an important difference between
the nature of the unemployment problem of young workers and that of
older workers. The high proportions of workers under 25 years
old who were unemployed at the time of the census were due to
a comparatively rapid turnover in employment, with frequent but
relatively short periods of idleness. Among workers 35 to 64
years old, on the other hand, unemployment apparently occurred
less frequently, but those who lost their jobs experienced rel-
atively great difficulty in finding another job, and tended to
remain unemployed for comparatively long periods.

In the interpretation of these figures, it should be borne
in mind that some of the persons seeking work who had been out of
work for very long periods, especially in the groups past the
normal age of retirement, probably had little or no chance of
returning to work. It should also be borne in mind that a con-
siderable proportion of the wage or salary workers seeking work,
especially in the age groups under 25 years, failed to report
duration of unemployment, and it is probably not safe to assume
that the periods of unemployment of persons who failed to report
were similar to those which were reported.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS WITH A JOB BUT NOT AT WORK

Enumerators were instructed to classify as "with a job but
not at work," persons reported as not seeking work who were
unemployed during the week reported because of vacation, short illness, bad weath-
er, industrial dispute, or lay-off for a period not exceeding
four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a
specific date. Persons reported in this category were classi-
formed as employed in the 1940 census tabulations because most of

* For a statement of the reasons for the conversion to months and
the procedures used, see "Month in 1939," above. In addition,
time was evidence of a tendency to report very long durations of un-
employment in multiples of 50 weeks, indicating that some enumerators
had calculated the number of weeks by multiplying a given number of
years by 50. To take account of this tendency, the classes designated
as 14 to 25 months, 26 to 50, 51 to 99 months, and 60 or more months,
representing 1, 2, 3 and 4, and 5 or more years, respectively, were
so designed that the weekly equivalent of any given number of years
would always fall in the same interval, whether the conversion was
made on the basis of 50 or 26 weeks per year.

then were persons who had been idle for only a brief period and
would presumably return to work within a short time. In some
cases, however, because of misunderstandings on the part of
enumerators and informants, persons who had been out of work
for relatively long periods were classified as having a job. It
was especially difficult for enumerators to make the proper
classification for seasonal workers not working at the time of
the census, and for persons laid off for long periods on ac-
count of industrial breakdowns, lack of orders, etc. The num-
ber of persons reported as with a job but not at work was
relatively large in seasonal industries and in industries in
which extensive reductions in employment occurred just before the time of the census. In some of the tables in this report, persons with a job but not at work, by class of worker and sex, are presented in Table IX for the United States, urban and rural. In urban and rural-nonfarm areas, the proportion reported as with a job but not at work was considerably greater for employers and own-account workers than for wage or salary workers. This difference is at least partly from the tendency of some enumerators to return as with a job but not at work persons, other than wage or salary workers, who were actually at work during the census week. In rural-farm areas, the percentage reported as with a job but not at work was less for employers and own-account workers (0.9 percent) than for wage or salary workers (2.6 percent), probably because enumerators were instructed to report farmers as at work even though, because of bad weather, temporary illness, etc., they actually did not work during the census week.

Table IX. PERSONS WITH A JOB BUT NOT AT WORK, BY CLASS OF WORKER AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA AND CLASS OF WORKER</th>
<th>URBAN</th>
<th>RURAL-FARM</th>
<th>URBAN</th>
<th>RURAL-FARM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>404,960</td>
<td>290,000</td>
<td>40,960</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed workers</td>
<td>28,800</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>397,980</td>
<td>287,840</td>
<td>14,980</td>
<td>9,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed workers</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>192,270</td>
<td>129,120</td>
<td>1,270</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed workers</td>
<td>5,400</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage or salary workers</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed workers</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS FOR WHOSE EMPLOYMENT STATUS WAS NOT REPORTED

The category, "Employment status not reported," includes two groups: (a) Persons reported as not in the labor force but not assigned to any specific category, who constituted about 20 percent of the 1,007,140 persons for whom employment status was not reported; and (b) those cases for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine whether they were in the labor force, who represented 80 percent of the total. The entire category is included in the total of persons not in the labor force in the 1940 census reports, because most of the persons in the group for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine whether they were in the labor force, were in the labor force in the population in which the proportion in the labor force is low.

Of the group for whom enumerators did not obtain enough information to determine their labor force status, 40 percent were attending school. 10 percent were 65 years old and over, and 30 percent were married women living with their husbands, and only 10 percent were men between the ages of 16 and 64. The majority of the group probably have been classified as in school or engaged in own-home housework if full information had been obtained. In many cases the failure to obtain the answers to the employment status questions was due to the enumerator's belief that the questions were not applicable to students, housewives, and aged persons.

On the basis of this evidence, it is estimated that probably not more than 50,000 of the persons for whom employment status was not reported would have been classified as in the labor force if full information had been obtained.

Data on age, sex, color, marital status, household relationship, and months worked in 1939 for persons for whom employment status was not reported are presented in the report entitled, "Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force."

Differences between results of sample tabulation and complete count

The statistics in this report are based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the 1940 census returns. These figures differ slightly from the results of complete tabulations, which are based on the data on some of the subjects included in this report. Table X presents the distribution by employment status of persons 14 years old and over. In the United States, by sex and urban-rural residence, based on five-percent sample tabulations, and the corresponding figures obtained from complete tabulations, which were published in Part I of Volume III of the Report on Population. These figures show the magnitude of the adjustments that would have been needed to bring the five-percent sample figures in this report into exact agreement with the complete tabulations.

Table X. SAMPLE TABULATION AND COMPLETE COUNT, FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Based on complete count</td>
<td>Based on complete count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Based on 5-percent sample</td>
<td>Based on 5-percent sample</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The differences between the five-percent sample figures and those obtained from the complete tabulations are due partly to sampling variations and partly to minor errors or biases in coding, card-punching, and machine tabulation. Exact agreement is not to be expected between these tabulations and the corresponding tabulations of a complete count, but the sample data nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various characteristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables, comparisons thus far made indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 10,000 will differ by less than 5 percent; 90 percent of those between 5,000 and 10,000 will differ by less than 10 percent; and 95 percent of those between 2,000 and 5,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,000, but even there the majority of the differences are less than 10 percent.