

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF ALABAMA

APRIL 1, 1950

(This is one of a series of reports presenting figures on selected characteristics of the population of the smaller States. In this series, reports are numbered alphabetically by States. Additional reports will be issued as figures for other States become available. Preliminary sample data for the larger States, not covered in this series, will be found in Series PC-6)

Gains in the population of Alabama between 1940 and 1950 were most marked among young children and elderly persons, according to figures from the 1950 Census of Population released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Although the total population of Alabama increased by 228,782, or 8.1 percent, during the decade, the number of children under 5 years of age increased by 82,789, or 27.8 percent, and the number of persons 65 years old and over increased by 62,362, or 45.8 percent. On the other hand, the number of persons 15 to 24 years of age and 25 to 34 years of age decreased by 9.5 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. In 1950 there were fewer males than females in the population of Alabama, and the shortage of males was relatively larger than it had been at the time of the preceding census. There were 96.3 males for every 100 females in 1950 as compared with 97.7 in 1940. Between 1940 and 1950, the nonwhite population of the State decreased by 0.2 percent, in contrast to an increase of 12.5 percent in the white population.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Urban and rural residence.--Under the urban definition established for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, towns,¹ and villages; (b) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and (c) unincorporated

places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. According to the definition used in previous censuses, urban population comprised all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.

Farm and nonfarm residence.--The rural population 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. However, the method of determining farm and nonfarm residence in the 1950 Census differs somewhat from that used in earlier censuses. In the 1950 Census, persons on "farms" who were paying cash rent for their house and yard only were classified as nonfarm; furthermore, persons in institutions, summer camps, and tourist courts were classified as nonfarm.

Color.--The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who are not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race are classified as white.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before the date of the census, that is, the age of the person in completed years. The median age may be defined as that age which divides the population into two equal groups--one-half being older and one-half younger than the median.

¹ Except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are minor civil divisions of counties and are not necessarily densely settled centers like the towns in other States.

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(over)

Table 1.--COLOR BY SEX, FOR ALABAMA, URBAN AND RURAL: 1950 AND 1940

Color and sex	The State			Urban, 1950	Rural, 1950	Percent distribution			
	1950	1940	Percent change, 1940 to 1950			The State		Urban, 1950	Rural, 1950
						1950	1940		
Total.....	3,061,743	2,832,961	8.1	1,340,937	1,720,806	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	2,079,500	1,849,097	12.5	886,663	1,192,837	67.9	65.3	66.1	69.3
Nonwhite.....	982,243	983,864	-0.2	454,274	527,969	32.1	34.7	33.9	30.7
Male.....	1,502,223	1,399,901	7.3	637,088	865,135	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,032,312	926,996	11.4	427,014	605,298	68.7	66.2	67.0	70.0
Nonwhite.....	469,911	472,905	-0.6	210,074	259,837	31.3	33.8	33.0	30.0
Female.....	1,559,520	1,433,060	8.8	703,849	855,671	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,047,188	922,101	13.6	459,649	587,539	67.1	64.3	65.3	68.7
Nonwhite.....	512,332	510,959	0.3	244,200	268,132	32.9	35.7	34.7	31.3

Table 2.--AGE BY SEX, FOR ALABAMA, URBAN AND RURAL: 1950 AND 1940

Age and sex	The State			Urban, 1950	Rural nonfarm, 1950	Rural farm, 1950	Percent distribution				
	1950	1940	Per- cent change, 1940 to 1950				The State		Urban, 1950	Rural non- farm, 1950	Rural farm, 1950
							1950	1940			
Total population.....	3,061,743	2,832,961	8.1	1,340,937	759,960	960,846	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by residence	100.0	...	...	43.8	24.8	31.4	...	...	...	...	...
Under 5 years.....	380,108	297,319	27.8	157,770	104,007	118,331	12.4	10.5	11.8	13.7	12.3
5 to 14 years.....	619,322	618,839	0.1	221,898	157,142	240,282	20.2	21.8	16.5	20.7	25.0
15 to 24 years.....	508,447	562,067	-9.5	222,403	122,929	163,115	16.6	19.8	16.6	16.2	17.0
25 to 34 years.....	447,821	453,744	-1.3	229,188	114,374	104,259	14.6	16.0	17.1	15.1	10.9
35 to 44 years.....	409,889	338,929	20.9	198,807	95,965	115,117	13.4	12.0	14.8	12.6	12.0
45 to 54 years.....	297,437	257,744	15.4	142,004	65,729	89,704	9.7	9.1	10.6	8.6	9.3
55 to 64 years.....	200,148	168,110	19.1	88,771	46,069	65,308	6.5	5.9	6.6	6.1	6.8
65 years and over.....	198,571	136,209	43.8	80,096	53,745	64,730	6.5	4.8	6.0	7.1	6.7
Median age.....years..	25.5	23.9	...	28.0	24.7	22.5	...	...	...	...	...
Male.....	1,502,223	1,399,901	7.3	637,088	374,944	490,191	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	192,541	149,606	28.7	79,683	52,921	59,937	12.8	10.7	12.5	14.1	12.2
5 to 14 years.....	313,725	312,462	0.4	110,980	79,377	123,368	20.9	22.3	17.4	21.2	25.2
15 to 24 years.....	244,290	273,273	-10.6	100,860	57,598	85,832	16.3	19.5	15.8	15.4	17.5
25 to 34 years.....	214,596	218,371	-1.7	108,066	56,428	50,102	14.3	15.6	17.0	15.0	10.2
35 to 44 years.....	198,594	163,487	21.5	93,672	48,456	56,466	13.2	11.7	14.7	12.9	11.5
45 to 54 years.....	145,199	129,098	12.5	67,792	32,473	44,934	9.7	9.2	10.6	8.7	9.2
55 to 64 years.....	99,006	85,751	15.5	41,785	22,412	34,809	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.0	7.1
65 years and over.....	94,272	67,853	38.9	34,250	25,279	34,743	6.3	4.8	5.4	6.7	7.1
Median age.....years..	25.0	23.7	...	27.5	24.6	22.2	...	...	...	...	...
Female.....	1,559,520	1,433,060	8.8	703,849	385,016	470,655	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	187,567	147,713	27.0	78,087	51,086	58,394	12.0	10.3	11.1	13.3	12.4
5 to 14 years.....	305,597	306,377	-0.3	110,918	77,765	116,914	19.6	21.4	15.8	20.2	24.8
15 to 24 years.....	264,157	288,794	-8.5	121,543	65,331	77,283	16.9	20.2	17.3	17.0	16.4
25 to 34 years.....	233,225	235,373	-0.9	121,122	57,946	54,157	15.0	16.4	17.2	15.1	11.5
35 to 44 years.....	211,295	175,442	20.4	105,135	47,509	58,651	13.5	12.2	14.9	12.3	12.5
45 to 54 years.....	152,238	128,646	18.3	74,212	33,256	44,770	9.8	9.0	10.5	8.6	9.5
55 to 64 years.....	101,142	82,359	22.8	46,986	23,657	30,499	6.5	5.7	6.7	6.1	6.5
65 years and over.....	104,299	68,356	52.6	45,846	28,466	29,987	6.7	4.8	6.5	7.4	6.4
Median age.....years..	26.0	24.1	...	28.4	24.7	22.8	...	...	...	...	...