

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF MONTANA

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 Montana 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 the State increased by 31,568, or 5.6 percent, the number of children under 5 years of age and the number of persons 65 years old and over each increased by 40.3 percent. On the other hand, there were decreases of 19.6 percent for persons 15 to 24 years old and 14.9 percent for persons 45 to 54 years old. In 1950 there were more males than females in Montana, but the excess of males was relatively smaller than it had been at the time of the preceding census. There were 109.9 males for every 100 females in 1950 as compared with 114.8 in 1940. This excess of males was found almost entirely in rural areas which had 117.3 males for every 100 females as compared with 101.0 for urban areas. The size of the nonwhite population of Montana remained stationary during the decade, in contrast to the white population which increased by 5.8 percent.

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

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.

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 "non-white" 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.

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Table 1.--COLOR BY SEX, FOR MONTANA, URBAN AND RURAL: 1950 AND 1940
(Percent change, 1940 to 1950, not shown where less than 0.1)

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.....	591,024	559,456	5.6	258,034	332,990	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	572,038	540,468	5.8	255,765	316,273	96.8	96.6	99.1	95.0
Nonwhite.....	18,986	18,988	...	2,269	16,717	3.2	3.4	0.9	5.0
Male.....	309,423	299,009	3.5	129,648	179,775	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	299,415	288,975	3.6	128,342	171,073	96.8	96.6	99.0	95.2
Nonwhite.....	10,008	10,034	-0.3	1,306	8,702	3.2	3.4	1.0	4.8
Female.....	281,601	260,447	8.1	128,386	153,215	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	272,623	251,493	8.4	127,423	145,200	96.8	96.6	99.2	94.8
Nonwhite.....	8,978	8,954	0.3	963	8,015	3.2	3.4	0.8	5.2

Table 2.--AGE BY SEX, FOR MONTANA, 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.....	591,024	559,456	5.6	258,034	197,051	135,939	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by residence	100.0	...	...	43.7	33.3	23.0	...	...	...	...	...
Under 5 years.....	68,175	48,581	40.3	27,617	24,427	16,131	11.5	8.7	10.7	12.4	11.9
5 to 14 years.....	101,857	93,314	9.2	38,531	36,799	26,527	17.2	16.7	14.9	18.7	19.5
15 to 24 years.....	82,352	102,414	-19.6	36,682	26,225	19,445	13.9	18.3	14.2	13.3	14.3
25 to 34 years.....	89,503	88,180	1.5	41,236	29,513	18,754	15.1	15.8	16.0	15.0	13.8
35 to 44 years.....	80,619	69,177	16.5	36,364	26,160	18,095	13.6	12.4	14.1	13.3	13.3
45 to 54 years.....	60,873	71,515	-14.9	28,158	18,728	13,987	10.3	12.8	10.9	9.5	10.3
55 to 64 years.....	56,761	50,018	13.5	25,628	17,575	13,558	9.6	8.9	9.9	8.9	10.0
65 years and over.....	50,884	36,257	40.3	23,818	17,624	9,442	8.6	6.5	9.2	8.9	6.9
Median age.....years..	29.8	29.0	...	31.4	28.8	28.1	...	...	...	...	...
Male.....	309,423	299,009	3.5	129,648	103,130	76,645	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	34,540	24,618	40.3	13,806	12,447	8,287	11.2	8.2	10.6	12.1	10.8
5 to 14 years.....	52,095	47,567	9.5	19,378	18,870	13,847	16.8	15.9	14.9	18.3	18.1
15 to 24 years.....	41,889	52,497	-20.2	17,383	13,197	11,309	13.5	17.6	13.4	12.8	14.8
25 to 34 years.....	45,765	46,721	-2.0	20,824	14,743	10,198	14.8	15.6	16.1	14.3	13.3
35 to 44 years.....	42,545	36,772	15.7	18,542	13,820	10,183	13.7	12.3	14.3	13.4	13.3
45 to 54 years.....	32,622	40,102	-18.7	14,289	10,154	8,179	10.5	13.4	11.0	9.8	10.7
55 to 64 years.....	31,432	29,763	5.6	13,237	9,755	8,440	10.2	10.0	10.2	9.5	11.0
65 years and over.....	28,535	20,969	36.1	12,189	10,144	6,202	9.2	7.0	9.4	9.8	8.1
Median age.....years..	30.7	30.3	...	31.8	29.8	29.8	...	...	...	...	...
Female.....	281,601	260,447	8.1	128,386	93,921	59,294	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	33,635	23,963	40.4	13,811	11,980	7,844	11.9	9.2	10.8	12.8	13.2
5 to 14 years.....	49,762	45,747	8.8	19,153	17,929	12,680	17.7	17.6	14.9	19.1	21.4
15 to 24 years.....	40,463	49,917	-18.9	19,299	13,028	8,136	14.4	19.2	15.0	13.9	13.7
25 to 34 years.....	43,738	41,459	5.5	20,412	14,770	8,556	15.5	15.9	15.9	15.7	14.4
35 to 44 years.....	38,074	32,405	17.5	17,822	12,340	7,912	13.5	12.4	13.9	13.1	13.3
45 to 54 years.....	28,251	31,413	-10.1	13,869	8,574	5,808	10.0	12.1	10.8	9.1	9.8
55 to 64 years.....	25,329	20,255	25.1	12,391	7,820	5,118	9.0	7.8	9.7	8.3	8.6
65 years and over.....	22,349	15,288	46.2	11,629	7,480	3,240	7.9	5.9	9.1	8.0	5.5
Median age.....years..	28.9	27.6	...	30.8	27.7	26.2	...	...	...	...	...