

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF NORTH CAROLINA: 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 North Carolina 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 490,306, or 13.7 percent, during the decade, the number of children under 5 years of age increased by 125,584, or 33.4 percent, and the number of persons 65 years old and over increased by 48.9 percent. On the other hand, the number of persons 15 to 24 years old decreased by 5.1 percent. In 1950 there were fewer males than females in the population of North Carolina, and the shortage of males was about the same as it was at the time of the preceding census. There were 98.6 males for every 100 females in 1950 and in 1940. Between 1940 and 1950 the nonwhite population of the State increased by 7.5 percent in contrast to an increase of 16.2 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 or 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.

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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Table 1.--COLOR BY SEX, FOR NORTH CAROLINA, 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.....	4,061,929	3,571,623	13.7	1,368,101	2,693,828	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	2,983,110	2,567,635	16.2	1,005,744	1,977,366	73.4	71.9	73.5	73.4
Nonwhite.....	1,078,819	1,003,988	7.5	362,357	716,462	26.6	28.1	26.5	26.6
Male.....	2,017,105	1,772,990	13.8	649,006	1,368,099	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,489,832	1,281,762	16.2	481,242	1,008,590	73.9	72.3	74.2	73.7
Nonwhite.....	527,273	491,228	7.3	167,764	359,509	26.1	27.7	25.8	26.3
Female.....	2,044,824	1,798,633	13.7	719,095	1,325,729	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,493,278	1,285,873	16.1	524,502	968,776	73.0	71.5	72.9	73.1
Nonwhite.....	551,546	512,760	7.6	194,593	356,953	27.0	28.5	27.1	26.9

Table 2.--AGE BY SEX, FOR NORTH CAROLINA, 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.....	4,061,929	3,571,623	13.7	1,368,101	1,317,164	1,376,664	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by residence	100.0	...	...	33.7	32.4	33.9	...	...	...	...	...
Under 5 years.....	501,582	375,998	33.4	151,039	178,507	172,036	12.3	10.5	11.0	13.6	12.5
5 to 14 years.....	810,124	785,221	3.2	215,700	256,897	337,527	19.9	22.0	15.8	19.5	24.5
15 to 24 years.....	721,655	760,584	-5.1	239,949	237,871	243,835	17.8	21.3	17.5	18.1	17.7
25 to 34 years.....	643,899	575,215	11.9	247,509	229,656	166,734	15.9	16.1	18.1	17.4	12.1
35 to 44 years.....	534,510	417,406	28.1	205,265	168,424	160,821	13.2	11.7	15.0	12.8	11.7
45 to 54 years.....	376,725	303,092	24.3	146,764	107,212	122,749	9.3	8.5	10.7	8.1	8.9
55 to 64 years.....	248,102	197,567	25.6	87,942	69,832	90,328	6.1	5.5	6.4	5.3	6.6
65 years and over.....	225,332	156,540	43.9	73,933	68,765	82,634	5.5	4.4	5.4	5.2	6.0
Median age.....years..	25.0	23.2	...	28.1	24.4	22.3	...	...	...	...	...
Male.....	2,017,105	1,772,990	13.8	649,006	665,225	702,874	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	254,669	189,824	34.2	76,411	91,246	87,012	12.6	10.7	11.8	13.7	12.4
5 to 14 years.....	410,656	396,565	3.6	107,778	130,281	172,597	20.4	22.4	16.6	19.6	24.6
15 to 24 years.....	361,427	374,164	-3.4	109,295	124,018	128,114	17.9	21.1	16.8	18.6	18.2
25 to 34 years.....	317,167	281,441	12.7	118,378	116,440	82,349	15.7	15.9	18.2	17.5	11.7
35 to 44 years.....	262,329	203,979	28.6	96,657	85,424	80,248	13.0	11.5	14.9	12.8	11.4
45 to 54 years.....	184,075	150,958	21.9	69,156	53,295	61,624	9.1	8.5	10.7	8.0	8.8
55 to 64 years.....	121,444	99,660	21.9	40,864	33,158	47,422	6.0	5.6	6.3	5.0	6.7
65 years and over.....	105,338	76,399	37.9	30,467	31,363	43,508	5.2	4.3	4.7	4.7	6.2
Median age.....years..	24.5	23.0	...	27.6	24.0	22.2	...	...	...	...	...
Female.....	2,044,824	1,798,633	13.7	719,095	651,939	673,790	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	246,913	186,174	32.6	74,628	87,261	85,024	12.1	10.4	10.4	13.4	12.6
5 to 14 years.....	399,468	388,656	2.8	107,922	126,616	164,930	19.5	21.6	15.0	19.4	24.5
15 to 24 years.....	360,228	386,420	-6.8	130,654	113,853	115,721	17.6	21.5	18.2	17.5	17.2
25 to 34 years.....	326,732	293,774	11.2	129,131	113,216	84,385	16.0	16.3	18.0	17.4	12.5
35 to 44 years.....	272,181	213,427	27.5	108,608	83,000	80,573	13.3	11.9	15.1	12.7	12.0
45 to 54 years.....	192,650	152,134	26.6	77,608	53,917	61,125	9.4	8.5	10.8	8.3	9.1
55 to 64 years.....	126,658	97,907	29.4	47,078	36,674	42,906	6.2	5.4	6.5	5.6	6.4
65 years and over.....	119,994	80,141	49.7	43,466	37,402	39,126	5.9	4.5	6.0	5.7	5.8
Median age.....years..	25.5	23.4	...	28.6	24.8	22.5	...	...	...	...	...