

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

FOR RELEASE

July 5, 1951

Washington 25, D. C.

Series PC-12, No. 28

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF OREGON

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 Oregon between 1940 and 1950 were most marked among young children, 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 481,657, or 39.6 percent, during the decade, the number of children under 5 years of age increased by 87,809, or 115.4 percent. In Oregon every age group increased between 1940 and 1950. In 1950 there were more males than females in the population of Oregon, but the excess of males was relatively smaller than it had been at the time of the preceding census. There were 103.2 males for every 100 females in 1950 as compared with 106.8 in 1940. Between 1940 and 1950 the nonwhite population of the State increased by 73.5 percent as compared with an increase of 39.2 percent for 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 fringes, 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

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.

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.

(over)

P R E L I M I N A R Y

Table 1.--COLOR BY SEX, FOR OREGON, 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.....	1,521,341	1,089,684	39.6	819,318	702,023	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,497,128	1,075,731	39.2	803,428	693,700	98.4	98.7	98.1	98.8
Nonwhite.....	24,213	13,953	73.5	15,890	8,323	1.6	1.3	1.9	1.2
Male.....	772,776	562,689	37.3	402,966	369,810	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	759,603	554,719	36.9	394,369	365,234	98.3	98.6	97.9	98.8
Nonwhite.....	13,173	7,970	65.3	8,597	4,576	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.2
Female.....	748,565	526,995	42.0	416,352	332,213	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	737,525	521,012	41.6	409,059	328,466	98.5	98.9	98.2	98.9
Nonwhite.....	11,040	5,983	84.5	7,293	3,747	1.5	1.1	1.8	1.1

Table 2.--AGE BY SEX, FOR OREGON, 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.....	1,521,341	1,089,684	39.6	819,318	473,788	228,235	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by residence	100.0	...	...	53.9	31.1	15.0	...	...	...	...	...
Under 5 years.....	163,918	76,109	115.4	82,080	60,027	21,811	10.8	7.0	10.0	12.7	9.6
5 to 14 years.....	239,770	155,196	54.5	109,131	86,306	44,333	15.8	14.2	13.3	18.2	19.4
15 to 24 years.....	201,808	182,860	10.4	108,639	63,799	29,370	13.3	16.8	13.3	13.5	12.9
25 to 34 years.....	234,500	175,025	34.0	131,117	76,844	26,539	15.4	16.1	16.0	16.2	11.6
35 to 44 years.....	222,905	153,283	45.4	121,857	68,246	32,802	14.7	14.1	14.9	14.4	14.4
45 to 54 years.....	179,334	146,030	22.8	100,548	48,798	29,988	11.8	13.4	12.3	10.3	13.1
55 to 64 years.....	146,078	108,453	34.7	84,311	36,599	25,168	9.6	10.0	10.3	7.7	11.0
65 years and over.....	133,028	92,728	43.5	81,635	33,169	18,224	8.7	8.5	10.0	7.0	8.0
Median age.....years..	31.6	32.5	...	33.4	28.5	32.0	...	...	...	...	...
Male.....	772,776	562,689	37.3	402,966	246,756	123,054	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	83,618	38,837	115.3	41,656	30,667	11,295	10.8	6.9	10.3	12.4	9.2
5 to 14 years.....	122,798	78,991	55.5	54,938	44,582	23,278	15.9	14.0	13.6	18.1	18.9
15 to 24 years.....	99,113	91,633	8.2	51,196	31,292	16,625	12.8	16.3	12.7	12.7	13.5
25 to 34 years.....	115,869	89,476	29.5	64,257	38,460	13,152	15.0	15.9	15.9	15.6	10.7
35 to 44 years.....	113,816	78,488	45.0	60,645	36,270	16,901	14.7	13.9	15.0	14.7	13.7
45 to 54 years.....	93,377	77,420	20.6	50,237	26,901	16,239	12.1	13.8	12.5	10.9	13.2
55 to 64 years.....	76,456	58,821	30.0	41,796	20,119	14,541	9.9	10.5	10.4	8.2	11.8
65 years and over.....	67,729	49,023	38.2	38,241	18,465	11,023	8.8	8.7	9.5	7.5	9.0
Median age.....years..	32.0	33.0	...	33.4	29.4	32.9	...	...	...	...	...
Female.....	748,565	526,995	42.0	416,352	227,032	105,181	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	80,300	37,272	115.4	40,424	29,360	10,516	10.7	7.1	9.7	12.9	10.0
5 to 14 years.....	116,972	76,205	53.5	54,193	41,724	21,055	15.6	14.5	13.0	18.4	20.0
15 to 24 years.....	102,695	91,227	12.6	57,443	32,507	12,745	13.7	17.3	13.8	14.3	12.1
25 to 34 years.....	118,631	85,549	38.7	66,860	38,384	13,387	15.8	16.2	16.1	16.9	12.7
35 to 44 years.....	109,089	74,795	45.9	61,212	31,976	15,901	14.6	14.2	14.7	14.1	15.1
45 to 54 years.....	85,957	68,610	25.3	50,311	21,897	13,749	11.5	13.0	12.1	9.6	13.1
55 to 64 years.....	69,622	49,632	40.3	42,515	16,480	10,627	9.3	9.4	10.2	7.3	10.1
65 years and over.....	65,299	43,705	49.4	43,394	14,704	7,201	8.7	8.3	10.4	6.5	6.8
Median age.....years..	31.3	31.9	...	33.4	27.6	31.2	...	...	...	...	...