

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF RHODE ISLAND

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.)

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Gains in the population of Rhode Island 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 78,550, or 11.0 percent, the number of children under 5 years of age increased by 30,210, or 64.8 percent, and the number of persons 65 years old and over increased by 16,134, or 29.7 percent. On the other hand, the number of persons 15 to 24 years old decreased by 8.3 percent. In 1950 there were fewer males than females in the population of Rhode Island, but males had gained proportionately since the time of the preceding census. There were 97.3 males for every 100 females in 1950 as compared with 96.0 in 1940.

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

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)

Table 1.--COLOR BY SEX, FOR RHODE ISLAND, 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.....	791,896	713,346	11.0	667,212	124,684	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	777,015	701,805	10.7	653,720	123,295	98.1	98.4	98.0	98.9
Nonwhite.....	14,881	11,541	28.9	13,492	1,389	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.1
Male.....	390,453	349,404	11.7	324,660	65,793	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	382,688	343,644	11.4	317,808	64,880	98.0	98.4	97.9	98.6
Nonwhite.....	7,765	5,760	34.8	6,852	913	2.0	1.6	2.1	1.4
Female.....	401,443	363,942	10.3	342,552	58,891	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	394,327	358,161	10.1	335,912	58,415	98.2	98.4	98.1	99.2
Nonwhite.....	7,116	5,781	23.1	6,640	476	1.8	1.6	1.9	0.8

Table 2.--AGE BY SEX, FOR RHODE ISLAND, 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.....	791,896	713,346	11.0	667,212	114,346	10,338	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by residence	100.0	...	...	84.3	14.4	1.3	...	...	...	...	...
Under 5 years.....	76,827	46,617	64.8	62,790	13,168	869	9.7	6.5	9.4	11.5	8.4
5 to 14 years.....	109,194	111,183	-1.8	90,794	16,754	1,646	13.8	15.6	13.6	14.7	15.9
15 to 24 years.....	120,748	131,625	-8.3	99,062	20,060	1,626	15.2	18.5	14.8	17.5	15.7
25 to 34 years.....	130,734	113,603	15.1	109,144	20,242	1,348	16.5	15.9	16.4	17.7	13.0
35 to 44 years.....	112,198	102,040	10.0	95,627	15,294	1,277	14.2	14.3	14.3	13.4	12.4
45 to 54 years.....	94,910	90,384	5.0	82,225	11,403	1,282	12.0	12.7	12.3	10.0	12.4
55 to 64 years.....	76,867	63,610	20.8	67,035	8,716	1,116	9.7	8.9	10.0	7.6	10.8
65 years and over.....	70,418	54,284	29.7	60,535	8,709	1,174	8.9	7.6	9.1	7.6	11.4
Median age.....years..	31.8	30.9	...	32.4	28.6	32.6	...	...	...	...	...
Male.....	390,453	349,404	11.7	324,660	60,267	5,526	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	39,397	23,763	65.8	32,130	6,814	453	10.1	6.8	9.9	11.3	8.2
5 to 14 years.....	55,249	56,451	-2.1	45,780	8,584	885	14.1	16.2	14.1	14.2	16.0
15 to 24 years.....	63,923	66,257	-3.5	50,602	12,437	884	16.4	19.0	15.6	20.6	16.0
25 to 34 years.....	64,926	54,448	19.2	53,606	10,578	742	16.6	15.6	16.5	17.6	13.4
35 to 44 years.....	53,969	49,284	9.5	45,504	7,814	651	13.8	14.1	14.0	13.0	11.8
45 to 54 years.....	45,363	44,362	2.3	39,001	5,672	690	11.6	12.7	12.0	9.4	12.5
55 to 64 years.....	36,934	30,574	20.8	32,002	4,347	585	9.5	8.8	9.9	7.2	10.6
65 years and over.....	30,692	24,265	26.5	26,035	4,021	636	7.9	6.9	8.0	6.7	11.5
Median age.....years..	30.6	30.2	...	31.3	27.2	32.3	...	...	...	...	...
Female.....	401,443	363,942	10.3	342,552	54,079	4,812	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	37,430	22,854	63.8	30,660	6,354	416	9.3	6.3	9.0	11.7	8.6
5 to 14 years.....	53,945	54,732	-1.4	45,014	8,170	761	13.4	15.0	13.1	15.1	15.8
15 to 24 years.....	56,825	65,368	-13.1	48,460	7,623	742	14.2	18.0	14.1	14.1	15.4
25 to 34 years.....	65,808	59,155	11.2	55,538	9,664	606	16.4	16.3	16.2	17.9	12.6
35 to 44 years.....	58,229	52,756	10.4	50,123	7,480	626	14.5	14.5	14.6	13.8	13.0
45 to 54 years.....	49,547	46,022	7.7	43,224	5,731	592	12.3	12.6	12.6	10.6	12.3
55 to 64 years.....	39,933	33,036	20.9	35,033	4,369	531	9.9	9.1	10.2	8.1	11.0
65 years and over.....	39,726	30,019	32.3	34,500	4,688	538	9.9	8.2	10.1	8.7	11.2
Median age.....years..	33.0	31.6	...	33.5	30.1	33.0	...	...	...	...	...