

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

JESSE H. JONES, Secretary

**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

PHILIP M. HAUSER, Assistant Director



**SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940**

**POPULATION**

**FAMILIES**

**Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939**

**Regions and Cities of 1,000,000 or More**

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Prepared under the supervision of  
**Dr. LEON E. TRUESDELL**  
Chief Statistician for Population

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## SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

### REPORTS ON POPULATION

Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
- II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
- III The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income, by States.
- IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data).

Additional Reports—Internal Migration, Families (Including Housing Data), Fertility, Parentage, Mother Tongue, Further Statistics on The Labor Force, etc.

Special Reports.

### REPORTS ON HOUSING

- I Data for Small Areas, by States.  
Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
- II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
- III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
- IV Mortgages on Owner-Occupied Nonfarm Homes, by States.

Special Reports.

## FOREWORD

Sampling techniques were utilized in the Sixteenth Decennial Census for the first time in the history of the Population Census. The use of sampling methods permitted the collection of statistics on a larger number of inquiries than had heretofore been possible, the release of preliminary population statistics at an early date, and the tabulation of a great many social and economic characteristics of the population at a relatively low cost.

This report is based on tabulations of a sample of the population returns and presents statistics on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939. The data are shown in combination with other family characteristics, such as size of family, number of children under 18 years old, and number of earners in the family, and by certain characteristics of the family head. These statistics provide a considerable body of information pertinent to the study of the economic well-being of American families. This report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief Statistician for Population, and Dr. A. Ross Eckler, Assistant Chief Statistician, by William H. Mautz, Chief of Economic Statistics, Dr. Selma Fine Goldsmith, and Alice B. Korstange. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

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# FAMILIES, 1940

## WAGE OR SALARY INCOME IN 1939

### INTRODUCTION

#### GENERAL

This report presents data on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939, based on tabulations of a sample of the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken in April 1940.<sup>1</sup> The income data are shown for families classified by size, number of children under 18 years old, number of earners, months worked in 1939 by earners, class-of-worker composition, and by certain characteristics of the family head, including color, age, sex, marital status, employment status, and major occupation group. Family wage or salary income is also shown in combination with wage or salary income of the individual earners in the family.

Some of the tables in this report are confined to families in which all members in the labor force were classified as wage or salary workers in March 1940, since these are the families for which the data on wage or salary income are the most significant. Most of the tables show separate distributions by amount of family wage or salary income for families which had no income from other sources, and for families which had such other income. For families without other income the data represent a very close approximation to total income, whereas for families with other income they present only an incomplete picture of income.

Many of the tables are limited to urban and rural-nonfarm families. Data on wage or salary income are not as meaningful for rural-farm families as for urban and rural-nonfarm families, because the majority of the workers in rural-farm areas are farmers and unpaid family workers, who usually receive little or none of their income in the form of money wages or salaries.

#### RELATED REPORTS

This is one of a series of reports presenting statistics for families based on samples of the returns of the 1940 Censuses of Population and Housing. The specific titles of the other reports in this series that include income data and a brief summary of the subjects covered are given below.<sup>2</sup>

**General Characteristics:** Characteristics of families and of family heads. Statistics on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939, by tenure, are presented for States, cities of 100,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more.

**Income and Rent:** Data on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for urban and rural-nonfarm families classified by tenure and rent, and cross-classified by housing characteristics, family characteristics, and characteristics of the head, for regions and metropolitan districts of 1,000,000 or more.

**Tenure and Rent:** Data for urban and rural-nonfarm families classified by tenure and rent, and cross-classified by family characteristics and characteristics of the head. This report includes statistics on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939, by tenure and rent, for regions, cities of 1,000,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 500,000 or more.

**Size of Family and Age of Head:** Characteristics of families (including family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939) and of family heads, by type and size of family and age of head, for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

<sup>1</sup> The 1940 Population Census schedule is reproduced in Part 1 of Volume III and Part 1 of Volume IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population. The instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in these volumes.

<sup>2</sup> At the time this report goes to press, in June of 1943, the reports referred to in this paragraph are in various stages of completion, and it is possible that minor changes may be made before publication.

**Types of Families:** Characteristics of families by family type, age of head, and other characteristics of the head and of the family. This report includes statistics on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939, by color, sex, marital status, and age of head, for the United States.

**Characteristics of Rural-farm Families:** Data for rural-farm families classified by tenure and occupation of the head, and cross-classified by selected housing characteristics, family characteristics (including family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939), and characteristics of the head, for regions and geographic divisions.

Income statistics for individuals are presented in other publications. Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force," presents statistics on wage or salary income in 1939, based on complete tabulations of the census returns. These statistics pertain to the experienced labor force classified by occupation and employment status. Part 1 of Volume III presents the data for the United States as a whole and for the four regions, and Parts 2 to 5 present the data for States and for cities of 100,000 or more.

Two reports in the series "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics" also present income data for individuals and appear under the titles indicated below.

**Wage or Salary Income in 1939:** Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for wage or salary workers by months worked in 1939, industry, age, color, and other characteristics; for other persons in the labor force, and for persons not in the labor force, for regions, divisions, States, and cities of 250,000 or more.

**Employment and Family Characteristics of Women:** Labor force status of women by marital status and number of children, according to age, education, and other personal and family characteristics. This report includes statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 for the husbands of married women 18 to 64 years of age, for regions and for metropolitan districts of 1,000,000 or more.

#### AREAS

Statistics are presented in this report for the United States and for four broad regions: (a) The Northeastern States, comprising the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions; (b) the North Central States, comprising the East North Central and West North Central Divisions; (c) the South, comprising the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions; and (d) the West, comprising the Mountain and Pacific Divisions. Most of the statistics are also presented for cities of 1,000,000 or more.

The report includes figures for urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas. Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural, and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, comprising the remaining rural population.

#### AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

Some of the data on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income that were tabulated have been omitted from the tables in this report, partly because of limited funds for publication and partly because of the comparatively large sampling errors that are to be expected in the more detailed cross-classifications for categories containing only a small number of families.

## FAMILIES, 1940

The statistics presented for regions in tables 9 to 12 of this report were tabulated separately for urban and rural-non-farm areas, and those presented in tables 9 to 11 were tabulated also for rural-farm areas of regions. The statistics presented in table 9 were tabulated by color not only for the South but also for the other three regions and for cities of 1,000,000 or more. Table 9 gives more detailed data for the United States as a whole than for the other areas, but the more detailed data were tabulated for all the areas.

The statistics shown in table 10 were tabulated separately for families with two earners and for families with three or more earners. The data presented in table 11 were tabulated for each of the first two earners in the family, classified by his wage or salary income in combination with that of the family. Finally, the statistics for families classified by number of earners in combination with number of persons (table 5) were tabulated separately for families with three persons and for families with four persons.

The unpublished statistics, so far as the figures are large enough to be significant, can be made available upon request, for the cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for such statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C., will receive a prompt reply which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

## WAGE OR SALARY INCOME AND RECEIPT OF OTHER INCOME IN 1939

In the 1940 census, all persons 14 years old and over, except inmates of specified institutions,<sup>3</sup> were asked to report:

1. The amount of money wage or salary income received in 1939. (Persons who received salaries over \$5000 were required only to report that they received more than that amount.)

2. Whether income amounting to \$50 or more was received in 1939 from sources other than money wages or salaries.

The purpose of the second question was to identify those individuals and families whose income from money wages or salaries represented all or nearly all of their income. The question called for a simple answer of "yes" or "no" and did not call for the exact amount of nonwage income, because of the very considerable additional burden of enumeration that such a question would have entailed. The limit for the question on other income was set at \$50 on the assumption that a lower limit would have caused many individuals and families whose nonwage income was negligible to be classified with those who had substantial nonwage income, and that a higher limit, such as \$100, would have excluded from the group having other income certain individuals and families whose nonwage income represented a significant part of their total income. The classification of families with low wage or salary incomes as "without other income" when one or more members received between \$50 and \$100 in nonwage income might have led to erroneous conclusions regarding their purchasing power and economic status.

The classification of families by family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 is summarized for the United States in table I.

**Wage or salary income.**—Wage or salary income, as defined for the 1940 census, includes all money received in 1939 in compensation for work or services performed as employees, including commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, bonuses, etc., as well as receipts commonly referred to as wages or salaries. The value of income received in kind, such as living quarters, meals, and clothing, is not included.

The income reported was the total wages or salaries before deductions were made for Old-Age Insurance, Railroad Retirement, or Unemployment Compensation.

The enumerators were instructed to enter "0" for a person who had no wage or salary income in 1939. As a precaution against inconsistent entries, the following items were listed in the instructions to enumerators as types of income to be excluded from wage or salary income: (1) Earnings of businessmen, farmers, or professional persons derived from business profits, sale of crops, or fees; (2) sums received as unemployment compensation; (3) direct relief or charity; (4) income in kind,

<sup>3</sup> These "specified" institutions comprise the following types: Penal institutions, hospitals for the mentally diseased or defective, and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy.

such as living quarters, meals, and supplies, even though received as payment for work performed; (5) sums received for travel and expenses incurred in travel; and (6) income from any source specifically listed as a source of "other income."

Table I. FAMILIES BY FAMILY WAGE OR SALARY INCOME AND RECEIPT OF OTHER INCOME IN 1939, FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Statistics based on Sample D]

FAMILY WAGE OR SALARY INCOME	All families	Families without other income	Families with other income <sup>1</sup>	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
				All families	Families without other income	Families with other income <sup>1</sup>
Total.....	35,087,440	17,522,740	17,564,700	100.0	100.0	100.0
With wage or salary income.....	24,550,580	15,928,300	8,622,280	70.0	90.9	49.1
Without wage or salary income.....	9,883,180	1,402,640	8,480,540	28.2	8.0	48.3
Not reported.....	653,680	191,800	461,880	1.9	1.1	2.6
With wage or salary income.....	24,550,580	15,928,300	8,622,280	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1 to \$199.....	1,579,220	677,960	901,260	6.4	4.3	10.5
\$200 to \$399.....	2,269,380	1,272,340	997,040	9.2	8.0	11.6
\$400 to \$599.....	2,171,380	1,332,220	839,160	8.8	8.4	9.7
\$600 to \$799.....	2,186,440	1,398,380	788,060	8.9	8.8	9.1
\$800 to \$999.....	1,905,400	1,245,000	659,400	7.8	7.8	7.5
\$1,000 to \$1,199.....	1,895,760	1,296,620	599,140	7.7	8.1	6.9
\$1,200 to \$1,399.....	2,037,700	1,433,780	603,920	8.3	9.0	7.0
\$1,400 to \$1,599.....	1,825,620	1,314,560	511,060	7.4	8.3	5.9
\$1,600 to \$1,999.....	2,657,600	1,918,660	738,940	10.8	12.0	8.6
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	2,410,800	1,719,360	691,440	9.8	10.8	8.0
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	1,274,760	884,580	390,180	5.2	5.6	4.5
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	1,780,120	1,158,120	622,000	7.3	7.3	7.2
\$5,000 and over.....	556,400	275,720	280,680	2.3	1.7	3.3
Median.....(dollars)..	1,226	1,303	1,042	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Includes statistics for families for whom the receipt or nonreceipt of other income in 1939 was not reported.

The enumerators were told that in some instances informants might not know the annual earnings of household members, but might know the number of weeks worked and the weekly wage so that annual earnings could be computed. Many wage or salary entries were computed in this fashion.

Family wage or salary income was obtained by combining the wages and salaries reported by all related persons 14 years old and over in the family. Families were classified as having wage or salary income not reported when a report on wage or salary income was missing for one or more members who were (a) in the labor force and classified as wage or salary workers, or (b) not in the labor force but who reported one or more weeks worked in 1939. When the question on wage or salary income was not answered for employers, own-account workers, unpaid family workers, new workers, or for persons not in the labor force other than those mentioned above, it was assumed that they had no wage or salary income. This assumption was made because relatively few of these groups of persons worked for wages or salaries in 1939, and the enumerator probably left the column blank because he believed that the question on wage or salary income was inapplicable. When one member of a family had a wage or salary income of \$5000 or over, or when the sum of the wages or salaries reported by two or more members was \$5000 or over, the family was counted as having wage or salary income of \$5000 or over, even though wages or salaries were not reported for one or more other members.

Many of the tables in this report show the median wage or salary income for the various categories of families included in the tables. The median wage or salary income presented here is the amount which divides the families reporting one dollar or more of such income into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median.

**Receipt of other income.**— "Other income" includes all income other than money wages or salaries, such as income from roomers or boarders, business profits, professional fees, income in kind, receipts from the sale of farm products, rents, interest, dividends, unemployment compensation, direct relief, old-age assistance, pensions, annuities, royalties, and regular contributions from persons other than members of the immediate

family. "Other income" does not include receipts in the form of lump-sum insurance settlements, occasional gifts of goods or money, inheritances, receipts or profits from the sale of properties (unless the person earned his living by buying and selling such properties), or reimbursements for travel expenses.

Families were classified as "with other income" if any related person 14 years old or over reported the receipt of \$50 or more of income from sources other than wages or salaries. Families were classified as "without other income" if all members 14 years old and over reported that they had not received other income amounting to \$50 or more. Persons engaged in home housework or in school who failed to report on the receipt or nonreceipt of other income were considered to have received no other income. Families were classified in the category "other income not reported" if one or more members, other than those engaged in home housework or in school, failed to report on the receipt or nonreceipt of other income, and no other member reported that he had received other income. Since relatively few persons engaged in home housework or in school receive any type of income, it is probable that many enumerators assumed that the question on the receipt of other income was inapplicable and accordingly made no entries for such persons.

In most cases it was not feasible to make separate tabulations for the small group of families which failed to report on the receipt of other income. In the tables which do not show separately the families which failed to report, these families are combined with families with other income of \$50 or more, in order to keep separate the group of families primarily dependent upon wage or salary income. Since the majority of the families failing to report probably had no other income, the result of this combination is an understatement of the number of families without other income.

#### FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

The term "family," as defined in the 1940 census, is limited to private families and excludes the small number (about 80,000) of institutions, hotels, lodging houses, and other quasi households. A private family comprises a family head and all other persons in the home who are related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption, and who live together and share common housekeeping arrangements. A person living alone is counted as a one-person private family. A family head sharing his living accommodations with one or more (but not more than ten) unrelated persons is also counted as a one-person private family.

The income statistics in this report are shown for families classified by size, number of children under 18, number of earners, months worked in 1939 by earners, and class-of-worker composition.

**Size of family.**—In the classification of families according to size, only the head of the family and persons related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption are counted. Lodgers, resident servants, guests, and foster children or wards are not included.

**Children under 18 years old.**—The tabulation of children under 18 years old includes all unmarried children within this age class who are related to the head of the family either by blood or by adoption. Stepchildren are included, but foster children and wards are not included. Grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and other related children not sons or daughters of the head are included but the number of such children is relatively small.

Statistics on families by number of children under 18 years old are significant principally because the great majority of such children are still financially dependent upon their parents.

**Number of earners in family.**—In some of the tables in this report, families are classified according to the number of earners in the family in 1939. An "earner," as the term is used in the 1940 census, is a person 14 years old or over who reported that he received one dollar or more of wage or salary income in 1939. Thus, families with one dollar or more of wage or salary income have one or more earners, and families with no wage or salary income have no earners. For families classified as having wage or salary income not reported, the number of earners could not be determined.

Statistics for the individual earners in the family, classified by their wage or salary incomes in combination with the wage or salary income of the family, are presented in table 11. These statistics are restricted to the first and second persons in the family listed by the enumerator as receiving one dollar

or more of wage or salary income in 1939.\* For families with one or two earners, the data on wage or salary income of the earners cover all the earners in the family. For families with three or more earners, however, the data for individual earners cover only the first two earners listed on the population schedule, and do not cover the earners in the family who appeared third, fourth, etc. on the schedule.

**Months worked in 1939 by earners.**—Families having one or more earners in 1939 are further classified in table 6 on the basis of months worked in 1939 by the earners. In the 1940 census, all persons 14 years old and over, except inmates of specified institutions, were asked to report the number of weeks worked for pay or profit, including public emergency work, or at unpaid family work during the year 1939. For periods of part-time work, the report was to be made in terms of equivalent full-time weeks, a full-time week being defined as the number of hours locally regarded as full time for the given occupation and industry. Paid vacations or other absences with pay were included in the number of weeks worked, except that summer vacations of school teachers who did no other work during the summer were not counted as time worked.

The returns for weeks worked in 1939 have been converted into months in the tables in this report, because a large proportion of the returns were only approximate and did not represent valid statements of the precise number of weeks of work. For families having one earner, two months-worked groups are shown: 12 months; less than 12 months. The category "12 months" includes families in which the earner worked 50 to 52 weeks in 1939. The category "less than 12 months" includes families in which the earner worked less than 50 weeks in 1939, was without work in 1939, or did not report on work in 1939. For families having two earners, three groups are shown: Both 12 months; one 12 months; both less than 12 months. The group "one 12 months" includes families in which one of the earners worked 12 months in 1939 and the other worked less than 12 months in 1939. For families having three or more earners, three groups are shown: All 12 months; some 12 months; all less than 12 months. The category "some 12 months" includes families in which one or more of the earners worked 12 months in 1939 and one or more of the earners worked less than 12 months in 1939.

In interpreting the statistics on months worked by earners, it should be noted that since the months worked refer to all types of employment during 1939, they include time spent both at wage or salary work and at own-account and other work. For most wage or salary workers, however, the statistics on months worked represent time spent at wage or salary employment only, and for this reason the table showing months worked by earners in combination with family wage or salary income is limited to families with all workers wage or salary workers.

**Class-of-worker composition of family.**—In the classification according to class-of-worker composition, three groups of families are distinguished:

1. **Families with all workers wage or salary workers.**—This category comprises those families in which all members in the experienced labor force were classified as wage or salary workers.

2. **Families with some workers wage or salary workers.**—This class comprises those families in which some members in the experienced labor force were classified as wage or salary workers and some were classified as employers, own-account workers, or unpaid family workers.

3. **Families with no wage or salary workers.**—This category comprises those families in which no members in the experienced labor force were classified as wage or salary workers and those families having no members in the experienced labor force.

The above classification is based on the class-of-worker designations of the family members who were in the experienced labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. The experienced labor force comprises the following categories of persons 14 years old and over: (a) Those who were employed for pay or profit or engaged in unpaid family work; (b) those on public emergency work; and (c) persons seeking work other than new workers. (New workers are persons seeking work who had not previously worked full time for one month or more.) For definitions of the employment status categories, see "Employment status of head", below.

\* Enumerators were instructed to list the members of each family in the following order: (1) The head of the family; (2) his wife; (3) their children; and (4) other relatives of the head.

## FAMILIES, 1940

An inquiry relating to class of worker was made for all experienced persons in the labor force. For employed workers and for persons on public emergency work, the classification by class of worker refers to their current work or job during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. For experienced workers seeking work, it refers to their last job of one month or more. The composition of each category is described below:

**Wage or salary workers.**— This class consists of persons who, in their current or last job, worked as employees for wages or salary (in cash or in kind). It includes not only factory operatives, laborers, clerks, etc., who worked for wages, but also persons working for tips or for room and board, salesmen and other employees working for commissions, and salaried business managers, corporation executives, and government officials. Experienced persons in the labor force for whom class of worker was not reported have been included among wage or salary workers, unless there was evidence to the contrary.

**Employers and own-account workers.**— This group consists of persons who, in their current or latest work, operated their own business enterprises. It includes not only the owner-operators of large stores and manufacturing establishments, but also small merchants, independent craftsmen, farmers, professional men, peddlers, and other persons conducting enterprises of their own. It does not include managers paid to operate businesses owned by other persons or by corporations; such workers are classified as wage or salary workers.

**Unpaid family workers.**— This class is composed of persons who assisted without pay on farms or in stores or other enterprises operated by other members of their families. The great majority of unpaid family workers are farm laborers.

Statistics on family wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 are summarized in table II for urban and rural-nonfarm families by class-of-worker composition.

Table II. URBAN AND RURAL-NONFARM FAMILIES BY CLASS-OF-WORKER COMPOSITION IN MARCH 1940, BY FAMILY WAGE OR SALARY INCOME AND RECEIPT OF OTHER INCOME IN 1939, FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Statistics based on Sample D]

FAMILY WAGE OR SALARY INCOME IN 1939 AND RECEIPT OF OTHER INCOME BY FAMILY IN 1939	All families	Families with all workers wage or salary workers, March 1940	Families with some workers wage or salary workers, March 1940	Families with no wage or salary workers, March 1940	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
					With all workers wage or salary workers	With some workers wage or salary workers	With no wage or salary workers
Total.....	28,010,540	20,580,680	1,484,000	5,945,860	100.0	100.0	100.0
With wage or salary income.....	21,615,800	19,519,880	1,344,800	751,120	94.8	90.6	12.6
Without wage or salary income.....	5,853,400	592,540	92,120	5,168,740	2.9	6.2	85.9
Not reported.....	541,340	468,260	47,080	26,000	2.3	3.2	0.4
With wage or salary income.....	21,615,800	19,519,880	1,344,800	751,120	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1 to \$199.....	925,100	698,520	100,580	126,000	3.6	7.5	16.8
\$200 to \$399.....	1,557,060	1,317,760	133,360	105,940	6.8	9.9	14.1
\$400 to \$599.....	1,723,620	1,509,220	134,760	79,640	7.7	10.0	10.6
\$600 to \$799.....	1,887,560	1,666,240	151,380	69,940	8.5	11.3	9.3
\$800 to \$999.....	1,704,680	1,523,280	128,020	48,380	7.8	9.5	6.4
\$1,000 to \$1,199.....	1,747,100	1,585,680	112,140	49,280	8.1	8.3	6.6
\$1,200 to \$1,399.....	1,911,680	1,758,540	106,140	47,000	9.0	7.9	6.3
\$1,400 to \$1,599.....	1,739,340	1,617,320	84,840	37,180	8.3	6.3	4.9
\$1,600 to \$1,999.....	2,550,760	2,397,100	115,280	38,380	12.3	8.6	5.1
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	2,333,660	2,185,800	102,580	45,480	11.2	7.6	6.1
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	1,243,740	1,164,580	57,780	21,380	6.0	4.3	2.8
\$3,000 to \$4,999.....	1,745,320	1,621,940	86,520	36,860	8.3	6.4	4.9
\$5,000 and over.....	545,980	468,900	31,420	45,660	2.4	2.3	6.1
Median.....(dollars)..	1,332	1,365	1,043	783	-	-	-
Total.....	28,010,540	20,580,680	1,484,000	5,945,860	100.0	100.0	100.0
Without other income.....	15,808,320	14,485,180	247,300	1,071,440	70.4	16.7	18.0
With other income <sup>1</sup> .....	12,202,620	6,095,500	1,236,700	4,874,420	29.5	83.3	82.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes statistics for families for whom the receipt or nonreceipt of other income in 1939 was not reported.

Families with all workers wage or salary workers are the class for which the data on wage or salary income are the most significant and the most reliable. Since wages or salaries represented the normal type of compensation of wage or salary workers, there was likely to be less confusion on the part of the enumerator between income from wages or salaries and income from nonwage sources for these workers than for own-account and other workers.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILY HEAD

One person in each family was designated in the 1940 census as the family head, being in general the person regarded as the head by members of the family. The number of heads of families is, therefore, equal to the number of families. The head of a private family is usually a married man and the chief breadwinner or "economic head" of the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household.

The income statistics in this report are shown in combination with certain personal and economic characteristics of the family head, including color, age, sex, marital status, employment status, and major occupation group.

**Color of head.**— Because of the differences in economic status between white and nonwhite families, the income data for the South are shown separately for families with white and nonwhite heads. Nonwhites include Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and other nonwhite races. Ninety-nine percent of the

nonwhite population in the South consists of Negroes. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were returned as white in 1940.

The statistics in this report are not shown by color of the head for the regions other than the South because of their relatively small nonwhite population.

**Age of head.**— The age classification is based on the age of the family head at his last birthday before April 1, 1940, that is, age in completed years.

**Sex and marital status of head.**— In the classification of families by sex and marital status of the head, three groups are shown: (a) Families with male head, married, wife present; (b) families with male head, other marital status; and (c) families with female head.

A male head was classified as "married, wife present" if his wife was reported as a member of the household in which he was enumerated. Families with "male head, other marital status" include those in which the head was single, widowed, or divorced, and those in which the head was married but his wife was not enumerated in the same household. This last group includes married heads whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose wives were abroad, husbands of women enumerated as inmates of institutions, and other married male heads whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their wives.

Families with female heads are, for the most part, those in which the head is a widow. They include also families in

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which the head is a single or divorced woman or a married woman with husband absent from the household. Females were not classified as heads of families if their husbands were living in the household at the time the census was taken.

Employment status of head.— In the classification by employment status of the family head, statistics are shown separately for families in which the head was employed or seeking work; on public emergency work; or not in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. These categories are defined below.

Employed.— The group classified as employed includes persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and persons not actually at work and not seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. For convenience in terminology, the term "Employed" is used in this report as equivalent to the term "Employed (except on public emergency work)" in the publications presenting data for individuals.

Seeking work.— This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week.

On public emergency work.— This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Works Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Not in labor force.— This category includes persons engaged in own home housework, those in school, those unable to work, inmates of institutions, other persons not in the labor force, and persons for whom employment status was not reported.

The income data for families with employed heads and for families with heads seeking work were not tabulated separately, since the distinction between the two groups is based on activity during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, whereas the income data refer to the calendar year 1939. Many heads who were seeking work at the time of the census had been employed throughout 1939, and many of those who were employed at the time of the census had worked only intermittently during 1939.

The income data for families in which the head was on public emergency work are presented separately from the data for families in which the head was engaged in private or nonemergency government work, since both the wage rates and the amount of employment of persons on public emergency work were determined by the policies of the various emergency work programs. In interpreting these statistics, it should be remembered that a considerable portion of the wage or salary income reported by families with heads on public emergency work during the census

week may have been derived from nonemergency employment during 1939. Conversely, the data for other families include some wages or salaries derived from public emergency work during 1939.

In the interpretation of the data for families with heads on public emergency work, allowance must be made for the misclassification in the census returns of considerable numbers of public emergency workers. Among the factors that were responsible for the misclassification were confusion on the part of the enumerators and respondents regarding the classification of certain types of public emergency work, and reluctance on the part of some persons to report that they were on emergency work. The most common type of misclassification was the reporting of emergency workers as "employed."

Major occupation group of head.— Families in which the head was employed or seeking work are further classified by major occupation group of head. For employed workers the occupation designations refer to the current job during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940; for experienced workers seeking work, they refer to the last job of one month or more.

The nine major occupation groups shown here are a modification of the eleven principal subdivisions of the 451 occupation titles used in the 1940 census. The occupations included in each of the major groups are listed in the tables on occupation presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force."

### COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT

The statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of a sample of families, identified as Sample D. In certain portions of the areas shown, a 2½-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 40), and elsewhere a 5-percent sample was used (multiplied by a uniform factor of 20).

Exact agreement is not to be expected between the tabulations of the sample and the corresponding tabulations of a complete count, but the sample data nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various characteristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables, comparisons thus far made with figures obtainable also from the complete count indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 25,000 will differ from those available from the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 10,000 and 25,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 2,500 and 10,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,500, but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent.

In a forthcoming technical report there will be a detailed exposition of the sampling method, descriptions of the various samples that were taken, and comparisons between the samples and complete count. The purpose of the report will be to assist in evaluating the data that are published on the basis of the samples.

