

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAFF, Director



POPULATION

EDUCATION

**Educational Attainment by Economic
Characteristics and Marital Status**

Based upon tabulations from the Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940

Prepared under the supervision of
Dr. LEON E. TRUESDELL
Chief, Population Division
Bureau of the Census

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GENERAL POPULATION STATISTICS

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POPULATION ANALYST

JOEL WILLIAMS

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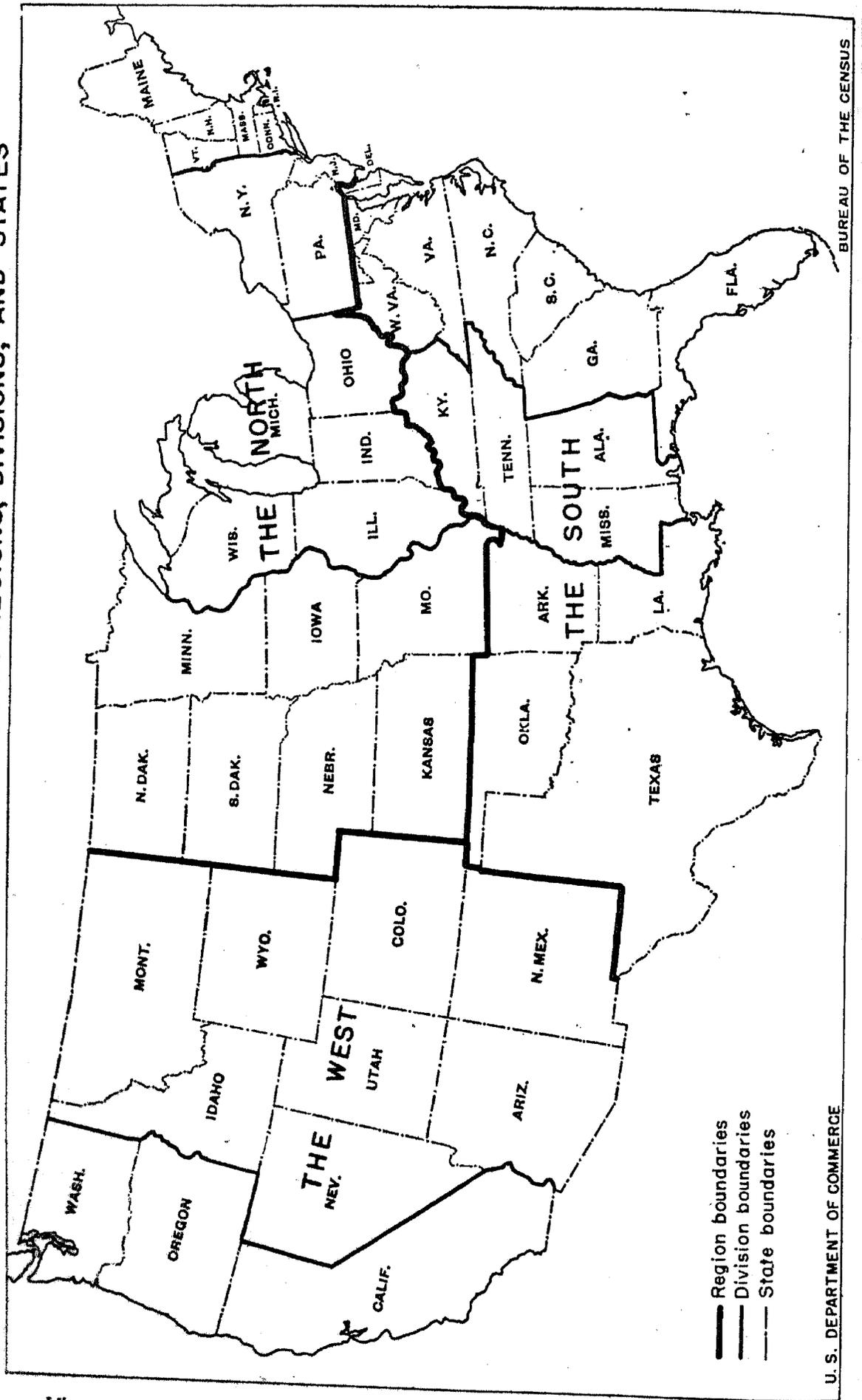
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FOREWORD

This report presents statistics showing the relationship between educational attainment, as measured by highest grade of school completed, and subsequent social-economic status, as indicated by tenure and rental value of the home, employment status, major occupation group, wage or salary income in 1939, and marital status. It is based on tabulations of a 5-percent sample of the population returns for native white and Negro persons 18 to 64 years old. Work on this subject was laid aside during the war because of shortage of manpower and pressure for other types of statistics. However, the data are now being made available by reason of the widespread interest in statistics on educational attainment and repeated requests currently coming from many quarters.

This report was prepared by Joel Williams, under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief, Population Division, Howard G. Brunsman, Assistant Chief, and Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Chief of General Population Statistics. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



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EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND MARITAL STATUS

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This report presents statistics on the educational attainment of the native white and Negro population 18 to 64 years old by tenure and rental value of home, employment status, major occupation group, wage or salary income in 1939, and marital status. These tabulations are based on a five-percent sample of returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken as of April 1, 1940.¹ Statistics are presented for urban and rural areas of the United States and three regions.

These statistics show the relationship between education, as measured by years of school completed, and subsequent social-economic status, as measured by tenure and rental value of home, employment status, major occupation group, and wage or salary income in 1939. One may examine, for example, the relative economic "success" of college graduates as compared with those who have gone through high school or grade school only, the amount of formal education customary among persons in each broad occupational group, and the incidence of unemployment according to educational attainment. Furthermore, one may study the relative proportion of bachelors and spinsters at the various educational levels and the incidence of divorce and widowhood. All these relationships may be seen separately at selected ages and in the different types of residential areas.

Related reports.—Detailed statistics for smaller areas on the educational attainment of the population based on complete tabulations of the census returns are presented in Volumes II and IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population and the special reports, "Internal Migration, 1935 to 1940—Social Characteristics of Migrants" and "Characteristics of the Nonwhite Population by Race." Additional statistics on the educational attainment of adults, based on sample tabulations, are presented in the following reports:

The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)—Employment and Family Characteristics of Women

The Labor Force (Sample Statistics)—Occupational Characteristics

Families—General Characteristics

Families—Types of Families

Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910—Women by Number of Children Under Five Years Old

Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910—Women by Number of Children Ever Born

Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910—Fertility by Duration of Marriage

Nativity and Parentage of the White Population—General Characteristics

This is the second of two reports presenting detailed sample statistics on education cross-classified with various other characteristics. The data in this publication for the adult population 18 to 64 years old supplement the statistics of the first report which concerned the population 7 to 17 years old. The first publication, entitled "Educational Attainment of Children by Rental Value of Home," presents statistics of native white and Negro children by monthly rental value of home, for urban and rural-nonfarm areas of the United States, by regions. In broad terms, this earlier report dealt with the effect of the economic status of the parents upon their children's educational attainment, whereas the present report is concerned with the relationship of the person's own educational background to his subsequent economic and marital history.

¹The 1940 Population Census schedule is reproduced in part 1 of Volume IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, with a note indicating the method of selecting the five-percent sample of the population. The instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in this volume.

Availability of unpublished data.—The statistics presented in this report for persons 18 to 64 years of age have also been tabulated for children 14 and 15 years and 16 and 17 years old. The data which are shown for regions as a whole are also available for urban and rural parts of regions but are not published in all cases. Statistics for Negroes, which are shown in this report only for those areas in which they constitute a substantial proportion of the total population, are available also for the other tabulation areas. All tabulations made for urban areas are available by city size. However, these subdivisions are published only for selected characteristics in this report.

Such of the unpublished figures as are considered reliable can be obtained upon request for the cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., will receive a prompt reply including an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Urban and rural 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 urban areas are further subdivided into groups of places classified according to size, as follows: Cities of 250,000 inhabitants or more, urban places of 25,000 to 250,000, and urban places of 2,500 to 25,000. The remainder of the population is classified as rural and is subdivided into rural-nonfarm and rural-farm population on the basis of farm residence, without regard to occupation.

Race, parentage, and nativity.—This report is limited to the native white and Negro population. Statistics have not been tabulated for foreign-born white persons or for persons of other races. A person born in the United States or in any of its outlying territories or possessions is counted as native.

The native white population has been subdivided, by parentage, into two groups: (1) Native parentage (both parents born in the United States or in outlying possessions) and (2) foreign or mixed parentage (one or both parents foreign born).

Age and sex.—Classifications by age and sex are shown in all of the tables in this report. 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.

Tenure.—Statistics on tenure of home are pertinent only to persons living in private households and related to the head of the household. An individual was classified as living in an "owned" dwelling unit if the dwelling unit occupied was owned wholly or in part by the head of his family or by some related member of his family living in the dwelling unit. An individual was classified as living in a "rented" dwelling unit if the home was actually rented by the head of the household or by some related member of his family living in the home. Persons residing in rent-free quarters or in living accommodations which were received in payment for service performed were also included as living in "rented" dwelling units.

The classification "tenure not reported" comprises related members of private households in homes not reporting tenure, persons in private households not related to the household head, and all persons not in private households.

Monthly rental value of home.—The monthly rental data are based on the reported contract rent of the tenant-occupied dwelling units and the estimated rental value of owner-occupied

homes. Lodgers, servants, and other persons in private households who were not related to the household head, as well as persons living in hotels, lodging-houses, institutions, etc., are not classified, according to rental value of home, because the rent of the place where they lived is not a reliable indication of the economic status of such persons. For rural-farm areas, the data on monthly rental value of home are not entirely satisfactory because of the difficulty in separating the value or rent of the farmhouse from that of the rest of the farm property; statistics showing rental value of home are therefore restricted to persons residing in urban and rural-nonfarm areas.

Employment status.—In the 1940 Census of Population, persons 14 years old and over were classified on the basis of their activity during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, into two large groups: (a) Persons in the labor force, including those at work for pay or profit or at unpaid family work during the census week; those with a job or business from which they were temporarily absent; those on public emergency work; and those not at work but actively seeking work during the census week; and (b) persons not in the labor force. The latter group includes persons reported as engaged in own home housework, in school, or unable to work; others not employed, not on public emergency work, nor seeking work; all inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy, regardless of their activity during the census week; and persons for whom employment status was not reported.

In addition, statistics for persons in the labor force are shown separately for (1) those who were employed and (2) those who were seeking work or on public emergency work. In several of the previously published reports, persons on public emergency work were combined with those seeking work to form the category "Unemployed."

Major occupation group.—The statistics presented in this report on major occupation group, are limited to persons at work or with a job during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940.

In classifying occupation returns for 1940, the Bureau of the Census used a classification system with 451 occupation titles. The major occupation groups shown in this report are the principal subdivisions in this classification system. The specific occupations included in each major group are listed in the tables on occupation presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force" or in any third series. Population bulletin.

Wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939.—In 1940, inquiries concerning income were made for the first time in the history of the Population census. The following information was obtained:

1. The amount of money wage or salary income received in 1939. (Persons who received salaries over \$5,000 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.

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, clothing, etc., is not included.

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

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, or reimbursements for travel expenses.

In the present report, statistics for persons for whom the receipt or nonreceipt of other income was not reported are combined with those for persons with other income of \$50 or more. This procedure was followed in order to prevent the statistics on wage or salary income for persons primarily dependent upon such income from being affected by the inclusion of any persons who may have had more than \$10 of income from nonwage sources.

Marital status.—In the classification by marital status, four major groups are shown: Single, married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to marital status at the time the census was taken.

Persons classified as "married" comprise both those who have been married only once and those who remarried after being divorced or widowed. Since it is possible that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present" and "married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the person's husband or wife was reported as a member of the household in which the person was enumerated. The group "married, spouse absent" consists of married persons whose spouses were not living in the same household at the time of the census.

Highest grade of school completed.—In 1940 the census, for the first time, included a question on the formal educational attainment of each person. The question on the schedule asked for the last full grade that the person had completed in the regular school system—public, private, or parochial school, college or university.

There is evidence that in the 1940 census some persons overstated the amount of formal schooling completed. The following conditions, all of which tend toward an upward bias, may have been involved in some cases:

1. Persons who left school in the middle of a grade reported that they had completed that grade.
2. Years of education received in business colleges, trade and vocational schools, etc., were included.
3. The translation of education in ungraded schools or in foreign countries to the equivalent grade in the American school system was too liberal.
4. There was some exaggeration of educational attainment.

COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT

The statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of a five-percent sample of the 1940 census returns, multiplied uniformly by 20. Exact agreement is not to be expected between the tabulations of a 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 the figures obtainable also from the complete count indicate that 91 percent of the numbers above 10,000 will differ from those available from the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 1,000 and 10,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 2,000 and 5,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may be expected in numbers below 2,000, but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent, although much larger differences occasionally occur.

Table I presents a comparison of figures from the sample tabulations and those from the complete count for native white and Negro persons 18 to 64 years old in the United States, by age and sex, and table II presents a similar comparison for these groups in urban and rural areas.

INTRODUCTION

Table I.—COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT FOR THE NATIVE WHITE AND NEGRO POPULATION 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

(Percent not shown where less than 0.1)

AGE AND SEX	NATIVE WHITE				NEGRO			
	Based on complete count	Based on 5-percent sample	Excess of sample over complete count		Based on complete count	Based on 5-percent sample	Excess of sample over complete count	
			Amount	Percent of complete count			Amount	Percent of complete count
TOTAL								
18 and 19 years.....	4,378,434	4,381,260	+2,826	+0.1	524,375	517,980	-6,395	-1.2
20 to 24 years.....	10,180,640	10,143,280	-37,360	-0.4	1,195,227	1,186,340	-8,887	-0.7
25 to 29 years.....	9,479,994	9,489,460	+9,466	+0.1	1,145,294	1,132,280	-13,014	-1.1
30 to 34 years.....	8,497,387	8,504,700	+7,313	+0.1	992,879	986,080	-6,799	-0.7
35 to 44 years.....	14,141,278	14,240,940	+99,662	+0.7	1,800,929	1,784,820	-16,109	-0.9
45 to 54 years.....	11,143,590	11,198,620	+55,030	+0.5	1,243,242	1,196,060	-47,182	-3.7
55 to 64 years.....	7,455,913	7,502,080	+46,167	+0.6	698,123	727,100	+28,977	+4.9
MALE								
18 and 19 years.....	2,187,798	2,186,000	-1,798	-0.1	249,152	245,840	-3,312	-1.3
20 to 24 years.....	5,014,725	4,998,880	-15,845	-0.3	550,193	546,760	-3,433	-0.6
25 to 29 years.....	4,682,366	4,705,120	+22,754	+0.5	529,613	523,060	-6,553	-1.2
30 to 34 years.....	4,020,325	4,047,700	+27,375	+0.7	467,887	465,080	-2,807	-0.6
35 to 44 years.....	7,062,618	7,134,420	+71,802	+1.0	862,808	853,060	-9,748	-1.1
45 to 54 years.....	5,894,033	5,842,300	-51,733	-0.9	681,371	692,780	+11,409	+1.6
55 to 64 years.....	3,713,351	3,748,400	+35,049	+0.9	351,468	400,120	+48,652	+13.8
FEMALE								
18 and 19 years.....	2,190,636	2,195,260	+4,624	+0.2	275,223	272,140	-3,083	-1.1
20 to 24 years.....	5,115,915	5,147,400	+31,485	+0.6	645,034	639,860	-5,174	-0.8
25 to 29 years.....	4,781,628	4,784,340	+2,712	+0.1	615,671	609,220	-6,451	-1.0
30 to 34 years.....	4,267,068	4,257,400	-9,668	-0.2	524,998	520,060	-4,938	-0.9
35 to 44 years.....	7,075,666	7,105,520	+29,854	+0.4	898,121	931,760	+33,639	+3.6
45 to 54 years.....	5,549,877	5,556,320	+6,443	+0.1	611,871	604,080	-7,791	-1.3
55 to 64 years.....	3,742,552	3,759,680	+17,128	+0.5	351,658	326,980	-24,678	-7.4

Table II.—COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT FOR THE NATIVE WHITE AND NEGRO POPULATION 18 TO 64 YEARS OLD, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1940

URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE AND AGE	NATIVE WHITE				NEGRO			
	Based on complete count	Based on 5-percent sample	Excess of sample over complete count		Based on complete count	Based on 5-percent sample	Excess of sample over complete count	
			Amount	Percent of complete count			Amount	Percent of complete count
UNITED STATES								
18 and 19 years.....	4,378,434	4,381,260	+2,826	+0.1	524,375	517,980	-6,395	-1.2
20 to 24 years.....	10,180,640	10,143,280	-37,360	-0.4	1,195,227	1,186,340	-8,887	-0.7
25 to 29 years.....	9,479,994	9,489,460	+9,466	+0.1	1,145,294	1,132,280	-13,014	-1.1
30 to 34 years.....	8,497,387	8,504,700	+7,313	+0.1	992,879	986,080	-6,799	-0.7
35 to 44 years.....	14,141,278	14,240,940	+99,662	+0.7	1,800,929	1,784,820	-16,109	-0.9
45 to 54 years.....	11,143,590	11,198,620	+55,030	+0.5	1,243,242	1,196,060	-47,182	-3.7
55 to 64 years.....	7,455,913	7,502,080	+46,167	+0.6	698,123	727,100	+28,977	+4.9
URBAN								
18 and 19 years.....	2,415,059	2,418,320	+3,261	+0.1	229,730	227,100	-2,630	-1.1
20 to 24 years.....	5,990,092	6,004,560	+14,468	+0.2	674,765	670,840	-3,925	-0.6
25 to 29 years.....	5,020,095	5,028,220	+8,125	+0.2	631,252	624,580	-6,672	-1.1
30 to 34 years.....	5,025,191	5,024,220	-9,971	-0.2	582,247	575,980	-6,267	-1.1
35 to 44 years.....	8,025,544	8,084,320	+58,776	+0.7	1,085,096	1,067,680	-17,416	-1.6
45 to 54 years.....	6,010,023	6,053,450	+43,427	+0.7	695,039	683,200	-11,839	-1.7
55 to 64 years.....	4,001,957	4,036,760	+34,803	+0.9	350,868	394,200	+43,332	+11.2
RURAL-NONFARM								
18 and 19 years.....	897,751	905,120	+7,369	+0.8	85,957	85,140	-817	-0.9
20 to 24 years.....	2,075,325	2,083,560	+8,235	+0.4	205,681	205,200	-481	-0.2
25 to 29 years.....	2,045,352	2,055,450	+10,098	+0.5	195,615	191,780	-3,835	-2.0
30 to 34 years.....	1,824,829	1,827,340	+2,511	+0.1	161,258	159,680	-1,578	-1.0
35 to 44 years.....	3,009,653	3,042,160	+32,507	+1.1	275,502	274,900	-602	-0.2
45 to 54 years.....	2,253,143	2,253,980	+837	+0.0	192,485	188,500	-3,985	-2.1
55 to 64 years.....	1,580,008	1,598,060	+18,052	+1.1	112,490	112,060	-430	-0.4
RURAL-FARM								
18 and 19 years.....	1,055,624	1,054,820	-804	-0.1	208,678	205,740	-2,938	-1.4
20 to 24 years.....	2,055,222	2,056,180	+958	+0.0	413,780	410,300	-3,480	-0.8
25 to 29 years.....	1,715,546	1,705,780	-9,766	-0.6	313,417	315,920	+2,503	+0.8
30 to 34 years.....	1,524,367	1,523,040	-1,327	-0.1	249,374	250,420	+1,046	+0.4
35 to 44 years.....	2,802,081	2,813,960	+11,879	+0.4	439,329	442,760	+3,431	+0.8
45 to 54 years.....	2,566,419	2,561,280	-5,139	-0.2	354,712	355,160	+448	+0.1
55 to 64 years.....	1,873,948	1,867,260	-6,688	-0.4	229,765	230,840	+1,075	+0.5