

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

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EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE POPULATION: APRIL, 1947

(Preliminary data)

More than half the population of the United States 20 years old and over had completed the equivalent of the first year of high school by April, 1947, according to estimates issued today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Approximately one person in 10 had completed less than five years of school, but at the other extreme about one in 20 finished college.

Females had a slightly higher level of educational attainment (as measured by median years of school completed) than males. Although the proportion of college graduates was higher among males, relatively more males also had dropped out with no more than grade school training while a higher proportion of females had completed high school. The general pattern of differences in educational attainment between males and females is similar to that which was indicated by the 1940 data.

The median number of school years completed by persons in the younger age groups (20 to 29 years old) was about 12 years, representing the completion of high school. This level represents an increase of about four years of schooling over that reported by the population who completed their schooling a little more than a generation ago (those 55 to 64 years old). The general pattern among adults of a higher educational level at successively younger ages reflects the historic trend toward more and more schooling. The educational attainment of those persons now 20 to 24 years old is likely to improve somewhat in the future. Even in normal

times, an appreciable proportion of persons of this age are still completing their education, and at present adult education is widely prevalent.

The figures shown in this report relate primarily to the civilian population. Approximately 254,000 members of the armed forces living off post or with their families on post were included, but all other members of the armed forces were excluded. For simplicity the population covered is called the "civilian population" in this report.

The estimates presented in this report are preliminary and are based on data from a survey made in April, 1947, covering a representative national sample of the civilian population. Since these estimates are based on sample data, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census. The sampling variation may be relatively large in cases where the quantities shown are small. Therefore, the smaller estimates should be used with caution. The reliability of an estimated percentage depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which it is based. A more complete statement on the variations due to sampling will be presented in a subsequent report showing more detail on the educational attainment of the civilian population.

Data on the years of school completed by the civilian population 20 years old and over, by age and sex, are presented in the following table.

(over)

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 20 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: APRIL, 1947

AGE AND SEX	Total	YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED								Median years of school completed
		Elementary school			High school		College		School years not reported	
		Less than 5 years ¹	5 and 6 years	7 and 8 years	1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 or more years		
Total, 20 years and over.....	94,326,000	8,980,000	7,844,000	26,679,000	16,394,000	21,645,000	6,691,000	4,716,000	1,377,000	9.5
20 to 24 years.....	11,748,000	369,000	554,000	1,661,000	2,907,000	4,719,000	1,158,000	292,000	88,000	12.1
25 to 29 years.....	11,554,000	489,000	539,000	1,921,000	2,618,000	4,200,000	1,057,000	641,000	89,000	12.0
30 to 34 years.....	11,073,000	526,000	582,000	2,481,000	2,379,000	3,430,000	851,000	737,000	87,000	11.4
35 to 44 years.....	19,983,000	1,280,000	1,446,000	6,037,000	3,748,000	4,283,000	1,591,000	1,409,000	189,000	9.9
45 to 54 years.....	16,734,000	1,923,000	1,754,000	5,947,000	2,563,000	2,432,000	1,031,000	812,000	272,000	8.5
55 to 64 years.....	12,643,000	2,099,000	1,506,000	4,726,000	1,355,000	1,544,000	628,000	471,000	314,000	8.1
65 years and over.....	10,591,000	2,294,000	1,463,000	3,906,000	824,000	1,037,000	375,000	354,000	338,000	7.7
Male, 20 years and over.....	46,136,000	4,843,000	3,988,000	13,277,000	8,075,000	9,345,000	3,184,000	2,588,000	836,000	9.2
20 to 24 years.....	5,653,000	228,000	287,000	892,000	1,540,000	1,992,000	559,000	110,000	45,000	11.7
25 to 29 years.....	5,540,000	256,000	270,000	893,000	1,352,000	1,828,000	559,000	319,000	63,000	11.9
30 to 34 years.....	5,354,000	288,000	282,000	1,220,000	1,142,000	1,509,000	434,000	419,000	60,000	11.3
35 to 44 years.....	9,826,000	703,000	768,000	3,045,000	1,822,000	1,848,000	728,000	792,000	120,000	9.6
45 to 54 years.....	8,339,000	975,000	890,000	3,062,000	1,280,000	1,059,000	440,000	466,000	167,000	8.5
55 to 64 years.....	6,368,000	1,147,000	791,000	2,358,000	596,000	694,000	300,000	277,000	205,000	8.0
65 years and over.....	5,056,000	1,246,000	700,000	1,807,000	343,000	415,000	164,000	205,000	176,000	7.5
Female, 20 years and over.....	48,190,000	4,137,000	3,856,000	13,402,000	8,319,000	12,300,000	3,507,000	2,128,000	541,000	9.9
20 to 24 years.....	6,095,000	141,000	267,000	769,000	1,367,000	2,727,000	599,000	182,000	43,000	12.2
25 to 29 years.....	6,014,000	233,000	269,000	1,028,000	1,266,000	2,372,000	498,000	322,000	26,000	12.1
30 to 34 years.....	5,719,000	238,000	300,000	1,261,000	1,237,000	1,921,000	417,000	318,000	27,000	11.5
35 to 44 years.....	10,157,000	577,000	678,000	2,992,000	1,926,000	2,435,000	863,000	617,000	69,000	10.2
45 to 54 years.....	8,395,000	948,000	864,000	2,885,000	1,283,000	1,373,000	591,000	346,000	105,000	8.6
55 to 64 years.....	6,275,000	952,000	715,000	2,368,000	759,000	850,000	328,000	194,000	109,000	8.2
65 years and over.....	5,535,000	1,048,000	763,000	2,099,000	481,000	622,000	211,000	149,000	162,000	7.8

¹ Includes persons reporting no school years completed.