

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

SEP 5 1947

Washington 25, D. C.

Series P-20, No. 1

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION: OCTOBER, 1946

(This report is issued under a revised system of release format and series designation which represents a continuation of Population, Series P-S and of part of Series P-47)

Veterans of World War II have returned in large numbers to the high school classroom or to the college campus, either alone or with their families, to take advantage of educational opportunities offered them under the "GI Bill of Rights." In October, 1946, veteran males comprised three-fourths of the male school population, 18 to 29 years of age, according to estimates issued today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. These statistics were obtained in connection with the Bureau's monthly cross-section survey of the civilian population for October, 1946.

Changes since 1940.--Enrollment rates for persons 6 to 15 years old, in October, 1946, were above those for October, 1945, and April, 1940, the gains representing continuations of a long-time upward trend. During the period from April, 1940, to October, 1945, which included the war years, the proportions of persons in each age group from 16 to 24 years enrolled in school had suffered a decline. During the year from October, 1945, to October, 1946, however, there were increases in the proportions of persons enrolled in school in these age groups. Enrollment among persons 20 to 24 years old in October, 1946, exceeded both the 1940 and the 1945 rates, whereas among the groups from 16 to 19 years the proportions enrolled in 1946 were above the 1945 levels but had not yet regained the 1940 levels.

The large increases between April, 1940, and October, 1945 and 1946, in the proportions of 6-year-olds, both male and female, who were enrolled in school may be explained, in part, by the following facts: (a) The two surveys in October, 1945 and 1946, were taken at the begin-

ning of the school term when practically all children who had reached school age were enrolled in school, whereas the 1940 census was taken toward the end of the term and many children who had reached school age found themselves obliged to wait until the next term before enrolling; and (b) between April, 1940, and October, 1946, the compulsory age for starting in school was lowered in some of the States.

A comparison of the crude enrollment rates for all persons 6 to 24 years of age for 1940, 1945, and 1946 reveals a striking increase between 1940 and 1945 and a decrease between 1945 and 1946. However, since there was a marked change in the age distributions for these periods, a comparison of this sort is misleading. The entrance of a large number of males 18 to 24 years old into the armed forces between 1940 and 1945 and their subsequent return between 1945 and 1946 resulted in unusual changes in the age composition of the civilian population. The relatively greater concentration of the 1945 population in the ages where enrollment rates are especially high tended to increase the proportion of the population 6 to 24 years enrolled in school. In order to facilitate comparison of over-all enrollment rates for the different periods and sex-residence groups, the rates for 1940, 1945, and 1946 were standardized by age on the basis of the age distribution of the total population in 1940 and are presented in table I.

An examination of the standardized rates reveals that, if the population 6 to 24 years old in 1945 and 1946 had been distributed by age as in 1940, the proportion of these persons, particularly males, who were enrolled in school would, in general, have increased between 1940 and 1946.

Table I.--SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATES STANDARDIZED BY AGE FOR THE POPULATION 6 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1946, 1945, AND 1940

(The age distribution of the total population enumerated on April 1, 1940, was used as the standard for all sex-residence groups)

URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENCE AND SEX	PERCENT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL		
	1946	1945	1940
UNITED STATES			
Total.....	62.2	60.0	59.7
Male.....	64.8	60.4	60.1
Female.....	60.2	60.1	59.2
URBAN			
Total.....	64.2	62.0	62.8
Male.....	68.0	64.0	64.1
Female.....	61.3	61.3	61.7
RURAL-NONFARM			
Total.....	61.8	60.4	58.9
Male.....	64.3	60.2	59.5
Female.....	60.0	60.6	58.4
RURAL-FARM			
Total.....	57.5	55.4	54.4
Male.....	57.1	54.0	53.5
Female.....	57.9	56.8	55.4

Persons 25 to 29 years of age.--The October, 1946, survey was the first for which school enrollment data have been expanded to cover persons 25 to 29 years old. It was important to include these persons in order to obtain a more nearly complete picture of the school population. About one-quarter million persons 25 to 29 years old were enrolled in school in October, 1946, of whom the great majority were veterans. Among males 25 to 29 years old enrolled in school, close to 90 percent were veterans.

The following table shows the percent distribution, by veteran status, of males 18 to 29 years old enrolled in school, by age, in October, 1946:

Table II.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY VETERAN STATUS OF MALES 18 TO 29 YEARS OF AGE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: OCTOBER, 1946

AGE	Total	Nonveteran	Veteran
Total, 18 to 29 years..	100.0	24.9	75.1
18 and 19 years.....	100.0	64.9	34.9
20 to 24 years.....	100.0	9.3	90.7
25 to 29 years.....	100.0	10.4	89.6

Enrollment by sex.--The pattern of increase in school enrollment among males was generally the same as for both sexes combined, but more pronounced in the older age groups. The proportion of males 20 to 24 years old enrolled in school in October, 1946, was about triple that in October, 1945, and about twice the 1940 rate. That this increase is a result of the increased enrollment of veterans is borne out by the fact that about 20 percent of the veterans 20 to 24 years old were enrolled in school, as compared with only 8 percent of the nonveterans. Although one would normally expect that college enrollment would have increased in 1946 in accordance with the historical trend, it is unlikely that it would have reached such a high level had it not been for Federal aid to veterans.

For females under 18 years of age, changes in enrollment rates between April, 1940, and October, 1946, paralleled those for males. However, among women 18 to 24 years of age, the rate declined from 11.6 percent in 1940 to about 7.9 percent in 1945 and 7.4 percent in 1946. During the war, an abnormally large number of these women had entered the labor force or had married, and therefore had not enrolled in school. In addition, after the war, women, as well as nonveteran men, found limited opportunities for entering the already crowded colleges and universities.

Urban and rural residence.--For each age group, the proportion enrolled in school was highest in urban areas and lowest in rural-farm areas. (See table 1.) This differential results from a combination of factors. Many students in rural areas must travel long distances to reach the nearest school and tend to lose the incentive to attend classes at an earlier age than do urban students. In addition, the farm youth is needed at home to help with farm duties and frequently leaves school as soon as the law will permit. The 1946 enrollment rates for persons under 18 years in each of the three areas (urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm) varied only slightly from the October, 1945, figures. One of the largest increases during the 1945-46 period was among males 20 to 24 years of age in urban areas, from about 8.2 percent in 1945 to about 21.1 percent in 1946. Among females there were no significant differences in urban or rural areas between the proportions enrolled in school in 1945 and in 1946.

Table 1 gives statistics on school enrollment for persons 6 to 24 years old, by age and sex, for the United States, urban and rural. These data are presented for the estimated civilian population in October, 1946, and October, 1945, and the total population on April 1, 1940.

Type of school.--Elementary schools were training about 98 percent of all the students 6 to 13 years old; high schools, 80 percent of those 14 to 17 years old; and colleges, 74 percent of those 18 to 24 years old. Among persons 14 to 17 years old enrolled in school approximately 18 percent were still in elementary school and 2 percent were enrolled in college. Approximately one-fourth of the students 18 to 24 years old were enrolled in high school.

Data are shown in table 2 for the civilian population 6 to 29 years old enrolled in school in October, 1946, by type of school, age, veteran status, and sex, for the United States.

Employment status.--Employment among persons enrolled in school had increased in October, 1946, as compared with April, 1940. In October, 1946, of all persons 14 to 24 years of age who were enrolled in school, approximately 17 percent were also employed, whereas in 1940 the corresponding rate of employment was only 5 percent, (See table 3.) A higher proportion of nonveterans than of veterans enrolled in school were employed. Of the veterans 18 to 24 years of age who were in school, about 16 percent were employed; of the nonveteran students, 29 percent were employed. This difference may be explained, in part, by the fact that a major portion of the veterans who were in school were taking training under the "GI Bill of Rights," which provides aid in the form of subsistence allowances and tuition payments. In addition, the accelerated courses and heavy program which many of the veterans have undertaken leave very little time for a job.

Table 3 presents data on the school enrollment of persons 14 to 24 years old by employment status, veteran status, age, and sex for the civilian population in October, 1946, and the total population on April 1, 1940.

Hours of weekly attendance and employment.--More than three-fourths of all persons 14 to 29 years old who were reported as attending school during the survey week were in attendance for 25 hours or more. The median hours of school attendance for the age group 14 to 17 years was about 29.6 hours, as compared with 24.4 hours for the age group 25 to 29. In college the curriculum usually does not require as many hours of classroom attendance per week as in high school or in elementary school.

Data are shown in table 4 for the hours of attendance of the civilian population 14 to 29 years old enrolled in school, by veteran status, age, and sex, for the United States in October, 1948.

Among those students 14 to 17 years old who were employed during the survey week, approximately one-third were attending school 25 to 34 hours and working 15 to 34 hours, and one-fourth were in school 25 to 34 hours and working less than 15 hours. (See table 5.) Among the employed persons 14 to 17 who were not enrolled in school, about 80 percent were working 35 hours or more. The group not in the labor force was composed mainly of students who were in school full time, defined as 25 hours or more.

Table 5 presents data on the employment status of persons 14 to 17 years of age, by school enrollment, hours of attendance, hours of employment, and sex, for the United States, in October, 1946.

Of those persons 14 to 19 years old who were employed in agriculture, a higher proportion of those enrolled in school than of those not enrolled in school were unpaid family workers. Many farm children assist the family with farm duties while they are in school. However, when they leave school, a large proportion no longer work on the family farm but become wage earners on jobs off the farm.

Table 6 presents data for persons 14 to 19 years old employed in agriculture and nonagricultural industries, by school enrollment, class of worker, age, and sex, for the United States, in October, 1946.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

School enrollment.--The school enrollment statistics for 1945 and 1946 are based on the replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person had been enrolled for the current term or school year in any type of day or night school, public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include elementary schools (but not kindergartens), junior or senior high schools, and colleges or universities. Persons enrolled in special schools not in the regular school system, such as trade schools, business colleges, or extension schools, are not included in the enrollment figures. Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and training courses given directly on the job, are not reported as enrolled in school. The data for 1940 are essentially comparable with the 1945 and 1946 statistics in the coverage of schools and colleges but refer to enrollment during a one-month period (March 1 to April 1, 1940).

Type of school.--The statistics on type of school indicate the number of persons enrolled

at each of three levels: Elementary school, high school, and college or professional school.

Veterans.--A veteran of World War II is defined as a person who has been a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty at any time since September 15, 1940, and has been discharged or has returned to civilian life through transfer to a reserve status or to inactive duty. This release shows separate data for male veterans only.

Employment status.--Persons classified as "Employed" include those who, during the survey week, were either: (a) "At work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (b) "With a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff.

Persons classified as "Unemployed" include those who were not at work but were looking for work during the survey week, or would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off indefinitely, or (c) they believed no work was available in their line of work in the community.

The group "Not in the labor force" includes those persons not classified as either employed or unemployed and consists of persons keeping house, in school, retired, permanently unable or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an "off" season, and persons voluntarily idle.

Class of worker.--The class of worker classification comprises "Wage or salary workers," "Self-employed workers," and "Unpaid family workers." Wage or salary workers are persons working for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay in kind, or at piece-rates for a private employer or for any governmental unit. Self-employed workers are persons working in their own business, profession, or trade, or operating a farm, for profit or fees. Unpaid family workers are persons working without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

Source and reliability of the estimates.--The estimates for 1945 and 1946 presented in this release are based on data obtained in connection with the Census Bureau's monthly population sample survey, the sample consisting of about 25,000 households located in 68 areas in 42

States and the District of Columbia. Since the estimates are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. The following table indicates the approximate level of sampling variability of estimates of selected sizes.

Size of estimate	The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference between the estimate and the figure which would have been obtained from a complete census is less than:
10,000	9,900
50,000	26,000
100,000	41,000
300,000	79,000
500,000	96,000
1,000,000	136,000
3,000,000	240,000
5,000,000	320,000
10,000,000	520,000
20,000,000	800,000
30,000,000	1,020,000
50,000,000	1,400,000

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. For example, an estimated 63.3 percent of persons 6 to 24 years of age in the United States were enrolled in school in 1946, and the chances are about 19 out of 20 that a complete census would have yielded a figure between 62.1 and 64.5 percent. An estimated 65.5 percent of females 16 and 17 years old living in rural-farm areas were enrolled in school in 1946, and the chances are about 19 out of 20 that a complete census would have yielded a figure between 58.6 and 72.4 percent.

In addition to sampling variation, the estimates are subject to biases due to errors of response and to nonreporting, but the possibility of such errors is not included in these measures of reliability, since a complete census would be similarly affected.

The estimates for October, 1945, which are shown in this release have been revised to take account of improved population estimates for male civilians and will, therefore, differ somewhat from the estimates in the release, Series P-S, No. 9, "School Attendance of the Civilian Population: October, 1945," which was published before the new estimates were available.

The 1940 data on employed persons shown in this release are not completely comparable with those for 1946 because of changes in interviewing procedure. With the present interviewing techniques, a somewhat greater number of persons, especially women and young persons, are reported as employed. A small increase from 1940 to 1946 in the percentage of the population classified as employed should not therefore be interpreted as necessarily meaning that significant change has occurred.