

Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 199
April 22, 1970

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / Bureau of the Census

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: 1969

(Advance data, October 1969 survey)

About 59.9 million persons 3 to 34 years old in the United States were enrolled in school or college in the fall of 1969, according to the results of the Current Population Survey conducted in October 1969 by the Bureau of the Census. This figure represents an increase of 14 percent over the 52.5 million enrolled in October 1964.

The increases in enrollment of persons in the compulsory school attendance ages were primarily due to increases in the number of persons 6 to 17 years old, whereas, increases in enrollment among persons outside the compulsory attendance ages were due primarily to increases in enrollment rates.

Table 1.--FALL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 3 TO 34 YEARS OLD, BY LEVEL OF SCHOOL, TYPE OF CONTROL, AND AGE: OCTOBER 1969 AND 1964

(Numbers in thousands. Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Level of school, type of control, and age	1969	1964	Percent increase, 1964 to 1969
Total enrolled, 3 to 34 years old.....	59,913	52,490	14.1
Level and type of control:			
Nursery.....	860	471	82.6
Public.....	245	91	169.2
Private.....	615	380	61.8
Kindergarten.....	3,276	2,830	15.8
Public.....	2,682	2,349	14.2
Private.....	594	481	23.5
Elementary school (grades 1 to 8).....	33,788	31,734	6.5
Public.....	29,825	26,811	11.2
Private.....	3,964	4,923	-19.5
High school (grades 9 to 12).....	14,553	12,812	13.6
Public.....	13,400	11,403	17.5
Private.....	1,153	1,410	-18.2
College.....	7,435	4,643	60.1
Age:			
3 years old.....	315	182	73.1
4 years old.....	880	619	42.2
5 years old.....	3,129	2,846	9.9
6 years old.....	4,026	4,028	(Z)
7 to 13 years old.....	28,844	26,725	7.9
14 to 17 years old.....	14,452	13,014	11.0
18 to 24 years old.....	6,731	4,244	58.6
25 to 34 years old.....	1,537	835	84.1

Z Less than 0.05 percent.

The increase in preprimary school enrollment has been especially noteworthy. In 1964, about 800,000 children 3 and 4 years old, or 10 percent of those in this age group, were enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten. By 1969 this figure had increased to 1.2 million, or 16 percent of the age group.

Since 1964 the number of college students has increased from 4.6 million to 7.4 million, or by 60 percent. Among those 18 to 24 years old, 3.6 million, or 20 percent of the age group, were enrolled in college in 1964, compared with 5.8 million, or 27 percent of the age group, in 1969.

The number of Negroes enrolled in college has increased dramatically in the past 5 years. In 1964, there were 234,000 Negroes enrolled in college, but by 1969 this number had increased to 492,000, or by 110 percent. Among Negroes 18 to 24 years old, 157,000, or 8 percent of the age group, were enrolled in college in 1964, compared with 407,000, or 16 percent of the age group, in 1969.

Enrollment statistics shown in this report refer to the civilian noninstitutional population reported as enrolled in regular public and private schools and colleges by the middle of October, when the Current Population Survey was conducted. The statistics in-

clude both full-time and part-time students and persons who were working in addition to attending school. Children enrolled in "Head Start" programs or similar programs sponsored by local agencies to provide pre-school education to young children are counted as enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten as appropriate. These figures may differ from figures on school enrollment reported by other sources, largely because (1) the Bureau of the Census collects data by household interviews, whereas information from other sources is generally based on reports from school systems and institutions of higher learning; and (2) there are often differences in definitions and time references. Also, enrollment as of October, will usually be lower than enrollment for the whole school year because the latter provides a cumulative count of persons who enter school at different times throughout the year.

Since the figures presented in this report 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 where the numbers shown are small. A more complete statement on the variability due to sampling, as well as more detailed information about the fall enrollment figures, will be issued in a later report in this series.

Table 2.--FALL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 3 TO 34 YEARS OLD, BY LEVEL OF SCHOOL, AGE, AND RACE: OCTOBER 1964 TO 1969

(Numbers in thousands)

Level of school and age	1969			1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
	All races	White	Negro					
LEVEL OF SCHOOL								
Total enrolled.....	59,913	51,465	7,680	58,791	57,656	56,162	54,700	52,490
Nursery.....	860	676	170	816	713	686	520	471
Kindergarten.....	3,276	2,803	425	3,268	3,312	3,114	3,056	2,830
Elementary school (grades 1 to 8).....	33,788	28,572	4,785	33,761	33,440	32,916	32,475	31,734
High school (grades 9 to 12).....	14,553	12,588	1,808	14,145	13,790	13,364	12,975	12,812
College.....	7,435	6,827	492	6,801	6,401	6,085	5,675	4,643
AGE								
Number Enrolled								
Total, 3 to 34 years old.....	59,913	51,465	7,680	58,791	57,656	56,162	54,700	52,490
3 and 4 years old.....	1,195	934	242	1,227	1,145	1,033	886	798
5 and 6 years old.....	7,155	6,056	1,001	7,241	7,352	7,215	7,040	6,874
7 to 13 years old.....	28,844	24,571	3,902	28,620	28,286	27,895	27,450	26,725
14 to 17 years old.....	14,452	12,489	1,812	14,118	13,638	13,293	13,033	13,014
18 and 19 years old.....	3,351	2,934	373	3,317	3,026	3,176	2,930	2,196
20 and 21 years old.....	2,033	1,830	169	1,893	1,935	1,533	1,378	1,358
22 to 24 years old.....	1,347	1,242	84	1,095	1,067	1,014	982	690
25 to 29 years old.....	1,012	929	57	863	781	720	658	559
30 to 34 years old.....	524	479	39	417	426	283	343	276
Percent Enrolled								
Total, 3 to 34 years old.....	57.0	56.8	57.8	56.7	56.6	56.1	55.5	54.5
3 and 4 years old.....	16.1	15.1	21.2	15.7	14.2	12.5	10.6	9.5
5 and 6 years old.....	88.4	89.2	84.1	87.6	87.4	85.8	84.9	83.7
7 to 13 years old.....	99.2	99.2	99.0	99.1	99.3	99.3	99.4	99.0
14 to 17 years old.....	94.0	94.3	92.2	94.2	93.7	93.7	93.2	93.1
18 and 19 years old.....	50.2	50.9	44.5	50.4	47.6	47.2	46.3	41.6
20 and 21 years old.....	34.1	35.4	23.3	31.2	33.3	29.9	27.6	26.3
22 to 24 years old.....	15.4	16.2	8.6	13.8	13.6	13.2	13.2	9.9
25 to 29 years old.....	7.9	8.2	4.3	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.1	5.2
30 to 34 years old.....	4.8	5.0	3.4	3.9	4.0	2.7	3.2	2.6