

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
PUBLICATION



CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 230
December 1971

FILE COPY DO NOT REMOVE

**CHARACTERISTICS OF
NEW VOTERS:
1972**

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

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

GEORGE HAY BROWN, Director

Joseph R. Wright, Jr., Deputy Director
Conrad Taeuber, Associate Director

Population Division

HERMAN P. MILLER, Chief

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was prepared by Charles E. Johnson, Jr., Chief, Education and Social Stratification Branch, under the general direction of Paul C. Glick, Assistant Chief (Demographic and Social Statistics Programs), Population Division. Statistical assistance was provided by Jerry T. Jennings and Andrea Word.

SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 230, "Characteristics of New Voters: 1972," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1972.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, 35 cents. Current Population Reports issued in Series P-20, P-23, P-25, P-26, P-27, P-28 (summaries only), P-60, and P-65 are sold as a single consolidated subscription at \$14.00 per year, \$3.50 additional for foreign mailing.

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Related reports	2
Definitions and explanations	2
Source and reliability of the estimates	7

TEXT TABLES

Table		
A.	Standard errors of estimated numbers, total or white population	8
B.	Standard errors of estimated numbers, Negro and other races	9
C.	Standard errors of estimated percentages, total or white population	9
D.	Standard errors of estimated percentages, Negro and other races	9
E.	Factors to be applied to tables A, B, C, and D for the different types of data. .	10

DETAILED TABLES

Table		
1.	Estimates of the population of voting age, by age and State, for November 1972.	11
2.	Age, race, and sex of persons 18 to 24 years old: August 1, 1971	12
3.	Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence of persons 18 to 24 years old, by age: October 1970	12
4.	Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence of persons 18 to 21 years old, by region: March 1971	12
5.	Living arrangements of persons 18 to 24 years old, by age: March 1971	13
6.	Marital status of persons 18 to 24 years old, by age: March 1971	13
7.	School enrollment and labor force status of persons 18 to 24 years old, by age and sex: October 1970	14
8.	Employment status of persons 18 to 24 years old, by race, and sex, and age: March 1971	14
9.	School enrollment status of persons 18 to 24 years old, by age, race, and sex: October 1970	16
10.	Enrollment status and level of education of primary family members 18 to 24 years old, by marital status, race, and sex: October 1970.	18
11.	Years of school completed by persons 18 to 24 years old, by age, race, and sex: March 1971	19
12.	Family income of primary families with members 18 to 24 years old, by college enrollment status and race: October 1970	20
13.	Total family income in 1970 of persons 22 to 24 years old in families, by relationship to family head, race, and sex.	21
14.	Family status of persons 18 to 21 years old below the low-income level in 1970, by race.	21

CONTENTS--Continued

DETAILED TABLES--Continued

Table	Page
15. Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence of persons 18 to 21 years old below the low-income level in 1970, by regions	22
16. Mobility status of persons 18 to 24 years old between March 1969 and March 1970, by age	22
17. Reported voter participation of persons 18 years old and over, by age and race: November 1970 and November 1968	23
18. Reported voter participation of persons 18 to 24 years old by race, sex, and region: November 1968.	23
19. Reported voter participation and registration of persons 18 to 24 years old, by race, residence, and region: November 1968	24
20. Reported voter participation and registration of persons 18 to 24 years old, by years of school completed, sex, and race: November 1968	25
21. Reported voter participation and registration of persons 18 to 24 years old, by employment status, class of workers, sex, and race: November 1968	26
22. Reported voter participation and registration of persons 18 to 24 years old, by broad occupation group, race, and sex: November 1968	27
23. Reported voter participation and registration of persons 18 to 24 years old in primary families, by family income and race: November 1968.	28

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW VOTERS: 1972

There will be 25 million young people under the age of 25 who will be old enough to vote for President for the first time in the November 1972 Presidential election.¹ These young adults will comprise 18 percent of the total resident population of voting age. About 11 million of these new age-eligible voters will be 18 to 20 years old and about 14 million will be 21 to 24 years old. The exceptionally large number of new voters is the result of the Voting Rights Act Amendment of 1970 which lowered the voting age in National elections to 18 in all States after January 1, 1971. California and New York are expected to have the greatest number of potential new voters in 1972--more than 2 million each. Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan will each have more than 1 million potential new voters.

Table 1 presents data on the projected population of voting age in November 1972, by age, for each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Tables 2 to 16 present the most recent data available on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons 18 to 24 years old. Tables 17 to 23 present data on the voter participation and registration of persons 18 to 24 years old in the Presidential election of 1968.

Most 18 to 24 year olds are white. In August 1971, 87 percent of the 18 to 24 year olds were white, 12 percent were Negro, and 1 percent were of other races; 50.5 percent were women and 49.5 percent were men.²

More than half of the 18 to 24 year olds are single. In March 1971, among the 18 and 19 year old men, 92 percent were single as were 77 percent of the 18 and 19 year old women.³ Among the 20 to 24 year old men, 56 percent were single as were 37 percent of the 20 to 24 year old women.

Most 18 to 24 year olds live in families. In March 1971, among men 18 to 24 years old, 90 percent were living in families, including 29 percent who were heads of their own families and 61 percent who were living with their parents or other relatives.³ Among the women of this age,

91 percent were living in families, including 42 percent who were wives of family heads and 45 percent who were living with their parents or other relatives.

More than half of the 18 to 24 year olds are not enrolled in school but are high school graduates. In October 1970 among the 18 to 24 year olds, 70 percent were not enrolled in school, including 53 percent who were high school graduates and 17 percent who were not high school graduates.⁴ Of the 30 percent who were enrolled in school, 26 percent were enrolled in college and 4 percent were enrolled in school below college level. In March 1971, 31 percent of the persons 18 to 24 years old had completed one or more years of college.⁵

More than half of the 18 to 24 year olds are in the labor force. In October 1970 among the 18 to 24 year old men, 63 percent were in the labor force and not in school, 33 percent were in school (and some of these men were also in the labor force), and 4 percent were not in the labor force and not in school.⁶ Among the 18 to 24 year old women, 47 percent were in the labor force and not in school, 23 percent were in school (and some of these women were also in the labor force), and 30 percent were not in the labor force and not in school (primarily housewives).

The families of the 18 to 24 year olds are relatively well off financially. In October 1970, among primary families with dependent family members 18 to 24 years old who reported on their family income for the preceding 12 months, 47 percent had incomes of \$10,000 or more.⁷ Only about 19 percent had family incomes under \$5,000. In 1970, among the 22 to 24 year old men who were still living with their parents or other relatives, 73 percent were in families with incomes of \$10,000 or more; and among those who were heads of families, 32 percent had family incomes of \$10,000 or more.⁸

⁴Civilian noninstitutional population.

⁵Resident population, excluding Armed Forces in barracks.

⁶Noninstitutional population.

⁷Civilian noninstitutional population, excluding families whose head is a member of the Armed Forces. Dependent family members are relatives of the household head, excluding persons who are married, spouse present.

⁸Resident population, excluding Armed Forces in barracks.

¹Resident population. Includes Armed Forces in the United States, but excludes Armed Forces overseas. On August 1, 1971, there were approximately 556,000 Armed Forces overseas.

²Resident population.

³Resident population, excluding Armed Forces in barracks.

About two-thirds of the 18 to 24 year olds live in metropolitan areas. In October 1970, 66 percent of the 18 to 24 year olds lived in metropolitan areas, including 30 percent who lived in the central cities of metropolitan areas.⁹ About 35 percent lived in metropolitan areas but outside of the central cities and a similar proportion lived in nonmetropolitan areas. Of the 56 percent who lived in metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more, 47 percent lived in nonpoverty areas and 9 percent in poverty areas.

The 18 to 24 year olds are quite mobile. Between March 1969 and March 1970 among persons 18 to 24 years old, 36 percent had moved to a new address, including 14 percent who migrated to a different county and 7 percent who migrated to a different State.¹⁰

In the 1968 Presidential election the 18 to 24 year olds were not as likely to vote as persons 25 years old and over.¹¹ Among the 18 to 20 year olds who lived in the States where they were permitted to vote, 33 percent reported that they voted. In all States, 51 percent of the 21 to 24 year olds reported that they voted. Among persons 25 years old and over, 70 percent reported that they voted. The 18 to 24 year olds who were white were more likely to vote than those who were Negro; those who lived in the North and West were more likely to vote than those who lived in the South; those who had completed some years of college were more likely to vote than those who were not high school graduates; those employed in white-collar jobs were more likely to vote than those employed in blue-collar jobs; and those who lived in primary families with incomes of \$15,000 or more were more likely to vote than those who lived in primary families with incomes under \$3,000. Reported voting in the 1968 Presidential election among 18 to 24 year olds were: 52 percent of the whites as compared with 38 percent of the Negroes; 55 percent of those who lived in the North and West as compared with 42 percent of those who lived in the South; 68 percent of those who had completed some years of college as compared with 25 percent of those who were not high school graduates; 63 percent of those employed as white-collar workers as compared with 40 percent of those employed as blue-collar workers; and 68 percent of those in primary families with incomes of \$15,000 or more as compared with 32 percent of those with incomes under \$3,000.

⁹Civilian noninstitutional population.

¹⁰Resident population, excluding Armed Forces in barracks.

¹¹Civilian noninstitutional population comprised of persons 18 to 24 years old in Georgia and Kentucky, 19 to 24 years old in Alaska, 20 to 24 years old in Hawaii, and 21 to 24 years old in all other States and the District of Columbia.

RELATED REPORTS

Current Population Reports. Advance data on reported voter participation and registration of the population of voting age, by race and sex, for the United States and regions in the November 1970 Congressional election are contained in the report Series P-20, No. 208.

Data on voter participation by social and economic characteristics of the population of voting age in the 1966 Congressional election and in the 1968 Presidential election were published in the reports Series P-20, No. 174, and No. 192, respectively.

Additional information on the population of 18 to 24 year olds in the United States has been published in the P-20 Series on Population Characteristics. Additional information on income levels has been published in the P-60 Series on Consumer Income.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage. The data in tables 1 and 2 are for the resident population. The data in tables 3, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 are for the civilian noninstitutional population. The data in tables 4, 14, and 15 are for the noninstitutional population, excluding Armed Forces in barracks. The data in tables 5, 6, 11, 13, and 16 are for the resident population, excluding Armed Forces in barracks. The data in tables 7 and 8 are for the noninstitutional population.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. Except in New England, an SMSA is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, SMSA's consist of towns and cities, rather than counties. The metropolitan population in this report is based on SMSA's as defined in the 1960 census and does not include any subsequent additions or changes.

The population inside SMSA's is further classified as "in central cities" and "outside central cities." With a few exceptions, central cities are determined according to the following criteria:

1. The largest city in an SMSA is always a central city.

2. One or two additional cities may be secondary central cities on the basis and in the order of the following criteria:

a. The additional city or cities have at least 250,000 inhabitants.

b. The additional city or cities have a population of one-third or more of that of the largest city and a minimum population of 25,000.

Geographic regions. The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented in this report, represent groups of States, as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Poverty Areas. Poverty areas were determined by first ranking census tracts in SMSA's of 250,000 or more according to the relative presence (as reported in the 1960 census) of each of five equally weighted poverty-linked characteristics, and then combining these rankings into an overall measure termed a "poverty index." The five socioeconomic characteristics used to construct this poverty index were:

1. Percent of families with money incomes under \$3,000 in 1959.

2. Percent of children under 18 years old not living with both parents.

3. Percent of males 25 years old and over with less than 8 years of school completed.

4. Percent of unskilled males (laborers and service workers) in the employed civilian labor force.

5. Percent of housing units dilapidated or lacking some or all plumbing facilities.

After each tract had been ranked by the poverty index, those falling in the lowest quartile were designated as "poor" tracts.

In an attempt to approximate neighborhood concentrations of poverty, the following Poverty Area definition was developed:

1. Any area having five or more contiguous poor tracts regardless of the number of families contained within.

2. Any area of one to four contiguous poor tracts, containing an aggregate of 4,000 or more families.

3. Any area of one or two contiguous tracts not ranked in the lowest quartile that was completely surrounded by poor tracts. In some cases, areas of three or four contiguous tracts, not themselves poor but surrounded by poor tracts, were included in the neighborhood after analysis of their characteristics. Areas of five or more contiguous tracts not ranked in the lowest quartile but surrounded by poor tracts were not designated as poor tracts.

Because poverty designations were based on 1960 census data, it was considered desirable to update these designations on the basis of information on subsequent urban renewal received from local renewal agencies. Any tract where 50 percent or more of the 1960 population was displaced as a result of clearance, rehabilitation, or code enforcement was then further examined on the basis of location as follows:

1. Any previously poor tract completely surrounded by poor tracts was retained as part of the Poverty Area.

2. Any previously poor tract not completely surrounded by poor tracts was excluded from the final Poverty Area designation.

3. A "nonpoor" tract originally surrounded by poor tracts which no longer remained surrounded was also deleted from the final Poverty Area designation.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." The last category includes

Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro.

Household.--A household includes all of the persons who occupy a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms, or a room which constitutes a housing unit under the 1960 census rules. A group of rooms or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure, and when there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

Group quarters. Group quarters are living arrangements for institutional inmates, regardless of the number of inmates, or for other groups containing five or more persons unrelated to the person in charge. (See discussion of secondary families in the following section.)

Family status. Within households, persons who are family members are distinguished from those who are not family members. A family is defined as a group of two or more persons residing together who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption; all such persons are considered as members of one family even though they may include a "subfamily," that is, a married couple or a parent-child group sharing the living quarters of the family head. A primary family includes among its members the head of a household, and a "secondary family" includes no member related to the household head. Members of secondary families may include persons such as lodgers, guests, or resident employees and their relatives living in a household.

Persons living with relatives in group quarters were formerly considered as members of secondary families. However, the number of such families became so small (37,000 in 1967) that beginning with data for 1968 (and beginning with the census data for 1960) the Bureau of the Census includes persons in these families in the count of secondary individuals.

Persons who are not family members (that is, are not recognized as living with any relatives) include "unrelated individuals" and inmates of institutions. Unrelated individuals are of two types--primary and secondary. A "primary individual" is a household head with no relatives in the household. A "secondary individual" is a lodger, partner, guest, or resident employee with no relatives in the household or group quarters (and not a household head or institutional inmate).

Inmates of institutions are persons, other than resident employees, in such places as homes for delinquent or dependent children, homes and schools for the mentally or physically handicapped, places providing specialized medical care, homes for the aged, prisons, and jails.

Primary family. The term "primary family" refers to the head of a household and all other persons in the household related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Head of family. One person in each family residing together was designated as the head. The head of a family is usually the person regarded as the head by members of the family. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are resident members of the family at the time of the survey.

Marital status. The marital status classification identifies four major categories: single, married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, was residing in an institution, had moved to another area, or had a different place or residence for any other reason except separation as defined above.

Husband in Armed Forces. When a woman was reported as married but her husband was not enumerated as a member of the same household or group quarters, an additional question was asked to determine whether her husband was in the Armed Forces. Women who were reported as separated were not asked the additional question.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to two questions:

(a) "What is the highest grade of school he has ever attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?" The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools.

School enrollment. The school enrollment statistics from the current surveys are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was enrolled in school. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term of school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree.

"Special" schools are those which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges. Persons attending "special" 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 in training courses given directly on the job, are also excluded from the count of those enrolled in school, unless such courses are being counted for credit at a "regular" school.

Level of school. The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of five levels: Nursery, kindergarten, elementary school (first to eight grades), high school (ninth to twelfth grades), and college or professional school. The last group includes graduate students in college or universities. Persons enrolled in junior high school through the eighth grade are classified as in elementary school and the others as in high school.

Full-time and part-time attendance. College students were classified, in this report, according to whether they were attending school on a full-time or part-time basis. A student was regarded as attending college full time if he was taking 12 or more hours of classes during the average school week, and part time if he was taking less than 12 hours of classes during the average school week.

Mobility status. The population of the United States has been classified according to mobility

status on the basis of a comparison between the place of residence of each individual at the survey date and the place of residence one year earlier.

In the classification on mobility status, three main categories are distinguished:

1. Nonmovers. This group consists of persons who are living in the same house at the end of the period as at the beginning of the period.

2. Movers. This group consists of all persons who were living in a different house in the United States at the end of the period than at the beginning of the period.

3. Persons abroad. This group consists of persons, either citizens or aliens, whose place of residence was outside the United States at the beginning of the period, that is, in an outlying area under the jurisdiction of the United States or a foreign country.

Movers are subdivided in terms of type of mobility into the following two major groups-- (1) those living in the "same county" and (2) "migrants" or those living in a "different county" at the end than at the beginning of the period. Migrants are further classified as living in the same State as their previous residence or in a different State.

Reported voter participation. Voter participation data for 1968 were derived from replies to the following question asked of all persons of voting age:

"This month we have some questions about whether people voted in the recent Presidential election. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 5th, (pause) or did something keep (this person) from voting?"

Voter participation data for 1970 were derived from replies to the following question asked of all persons of voting age:

"This month we have some questions about whether people voted in the recent Congressional election. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 3rd, (pause) or did something keep (this person) from voting?"

Those of voting age are classified as "voted" or "did not vote." The "did not vote" class includes those reported as "did not vote" or "do not know if voted" and nonrespondents.

Reported registration. The data shown on registration were obtained by tabulating replies to the following question for those persons included in the category "did not vote":

"Was (this person) registered to vote in that election?"

All persons reported as having voted were assumed to have been registered. Therefore, the total registered population is obtained by combining the number of persons who voted and persons included in the category "did not vote," but who had registered. The "not registered" class includes those reported as "not registered" or "do not know if registered" and nonrespondents on registration.

In the November 1968 Current Population Survey supplement on voting, the survey estimate is 7.4 percent higher than the official count of votes cast for president. There appears to be a tendency for persons to overreport their voter participation because of reluctance to admit a dereliction in civic responsibility. Associated with this reason is the assumption by the respondent, in some instances, that another member of the household had voted when, in fact, he had not.

Labor force and employment status. The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements,

writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Civilian labor force. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force. All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Occupation. Data on occupation are shown for the employed and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The major groups used here are mainly the major groups used in the 1960 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in 1960 Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary.

Data are shown for four broad occupational groups (white-collar workers, blue-collar workers, service workers, and farm workers), which represent combinations of the 10 major groups. All persons engaged directly in agricultural production are classified as farm workers in this report. This included farm proprietors, managers, foremen, and laborers. The non-agricultural group is subdivided into three groups. The white-collar group includes professional workers, proprietors, managers, and sales and clerical workers. The blue-collar group includes craftsmen, machine operatives, and laborers (other than farm); and the service category includes private household workers and other service workers.

Income (table 13).--For each person in the sample 14 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in 1970 from each of the following sources: (1) Money wages or salary; (2) net income from non-farm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends, interest (on savings or bonds), income from estates or trusts, or net rental income; (6) public assistance or welfare payments; (7) unemployment compensation, government em-

ployee pensions, or veterans' payments; (8) private pensions, annuities, alimony, regular contributions from persons not living in this household, and other periodic income.

The amounts received represent income before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during 1970, the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the time of the survey. The income of the family does not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. On the other hand, family income includes amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during the income year but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration.

Data on consumer income collected by the Bureau of the Census cover money income (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) prior to deductions for taxes. The fact that many farm families receive part of their income in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm, rather than in money, should be taken into consideration in comparing the income of farm and nonfarm residents. It should be noted that nonmoney incomes are also received by some nonfarm residents. They often take the form of business expense accounts, use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial compensation by business for medical and educational expenses, etc. In analyzing size distributions of income, it should be recognized that capital gains tend to be concentrated more among higher income units than among lower ones.

For more detailed definitions of the terms and concepts on income in connection with families and persons, see Current Population Reports, series P-60, No. 80, "Income in 1970 of Families and Persons in the United States."

Income (tables 12, 23). For each family in the sample a question was asked on the total income of the family during the past 12 months, including wages and salaries, net income from business or farm, pensions, dividends, interests, rent, and any other money income received by the members of the family. Income was recorded in 11 income categories ranging from under \$1,000 to \$25,000 and over.

Income represents the combined total money income of the family before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. It is the algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net

income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the 12 months prior to the date of the survey. It should be noted that, although the family income statistics refer to receipts during the previous 12 months, the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the date of the survey.

The income figures in table 12 include a separate category for families for whom no income information was obtained. In most of the other Current Population Survey reports showing income data, the missing income data have been allocated.

Low income concept. The low income concept classifies families and unrelated individuals as being above or below the low-income level, using cutoffs adjusted to take account of such factors as family size, sex and age of family head, number of children, and farm-nonfarm residence. In 1970, the low-income thresholds ranged from about \$1,950 for an unrelated individual to \$6,470 for a family of seven or more persons. The threshold for a nonfarm family of four was \$3,968.

Rounding of estimates. Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are based on the unrounded absolute numbers.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data. Most of the estimates used in this report are based on data obtained in March 1971, October 1970, and November 1968 in the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Bureau of the Census. Some results are based on other months of the 1970 CPS and on current population estimates.

The current sample design, which was initiated in January 1967, encompasses 449 areas consisting of 863 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 50,000 occupied housing units are eligible for interview each month. Of this number, an average of 2,250 occupied units are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 50,000, there are also about 8,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

The estimation procedure used in the CPS involved the inflation of the weighted sample

results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimate Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures which would have been obtained from a complete census using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting, as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability; that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. The standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error. It should

be noted that figures based on current population estimates have no significant standard errors, although they are subject to other types of errors:¹²

All statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. Most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. Thus, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by the use of the phrase "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

Tables of standard errors for estimates and percentages for characteristics pertaining to total or white population (Tables A and C) and to Negro and other races (Tables B and D) are presented below.

Table E presents factors which are to be applied to the figures in tables A, B, C, and D to produce standard errors for the various subject matter areas. For example, to produce approximate standard errors for total or white estimates

¹²See report No. 460 of series P-25 for derivation and limitations of the estimates.

Table A. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers, Total or White Population

(Numbers in thousands)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age group									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
10.....	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
20.....	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
30.....	6.9	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
40.....	7.4	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
50.....	7.5	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
75.....	6.5	10.9	11.9	12.1	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
100.....	-	11.6	13.4	13.9	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3
200.....	-	9.5	16.0	19.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
300.....	-	-	16.0	22.0	24.0	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
400.....	-	-	13.0	23.0	27.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.0
500.....	-	-	-	24.0	30.0	31.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
750.....	-	-	-	21.0	34.0	38.0	38.0	39.0	39.0	39.0
1,000.....	-	-	-	-	37.0	42.0	44.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
2,000.....	-	-	-	-	30.0	52.0	60.0	63.0	63.0	64.0
3,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	52.0	69.0	76.0	77.0	78.0
4,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	42.0	74.0	86.0	88.0	89.0
5,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	75.0	95.0	98.0	100.0
7,500.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.0	109.0	119.0	121.0
10,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116.0	134.0	139.0
20,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95.0	164.0	190.0
30,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164.0	217.0
40,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134.0	232.0
50,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	237.0
75,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205.0

- Represents zero.

Table B. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers, Negro and Other Races

(Numbers in thousands)

Estimated number of persons	Total persons in age group						
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
10.....	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
20.....	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4
30.....	7.6	8.5	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1
40.....	8.2	9.6	10.1	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.5
50.....	8.3	10.5	11.1	11.4	11.6	11.7	11.7
75.....	7.3	12.1	13.3	13.8	14.2	14.3	14.3
100.....	-	12.9	14.9	16.0	16.0	16.0	17.0
200.....	-	10.7	18.0	21.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
300.....	-	-	18.0	24.0	27.0	28.0	28.0
400.....	-	-	15.0	26.0	30.0	32.0	33.0
500.....	-	-	-	26.0	33.0	35.0	36.0
750.....	-	-	-	23.0	38.0	42.0	44.0
1,000.....	-	-	-	-	41.0	47.0	50.0
2,000.....	-	-	-	-	34.0	58.0	66.0
3,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	58.0	76.0
4,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	48.0	82.0
5,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	83.0
7,500.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	73.0
10,000.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero.

Table C. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Total or White Population

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	6.2	3.9	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
50.....	7.2	4.5	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2

Table D. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Negro and Other Races

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)								
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	
2 or 98.....	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	
5 or 95.....	5.1	3.6	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	
10 or 90.....	7.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	
25 or 75.....	10.2	7.2	4.6	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7	
50.....	11.8	8.4	5.3	3.7	2.6	1.7	1.2	0.8	

for a residence subject, multiply the appropriate figure in tables A or C by the factor 1.2 for persons and 1.0 for families.

Table E. Factors to be Applied to Tables A, B, C, and D, for the Different Types of Data

Type of data	Persons	Families ¹
Residence.....	1.2	-
Living arrangements....	1.0	-
Marital status.....	1.0	-
Income.....	1.1	1.1
Low income.....	2.2	1.1
Mobility ²	1.9	-
Voting.....	1.4	-
School enrollment.....	1.0	-
Educational attainment.	1.0	-

¹For family estimates, only use the standard errors in the right-hand column of tables A and B.

²Use 1.7 for estimates less than 5,000,000.

The figures in all standard error tables are approximations to the standard errors of the various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error of any specific item.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerator of the percentages,

particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors Table 16 of this report shows that between March 1969 and March 1970, 2,777,000 of the 9,974,000 persons 18 to 20 years old were movers. Two-way interpolation in table A between the columns headed 5,000,000 and 10,000,000, and between rows 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 results in a standard error of approximately 67,000 on an estimate of this size. Table E shows the factor for mobility is 1.7 for estimates less than 5,000,000. Multiplying the 67,000 by this factor (67,000 x 1.7 = 114,000) produces an approximation to the standard error on the estimate. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 114,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 228,000.

This estimate of 2,777,000 movers aged 18 to 20 years, represents 27.8 percent of the total 9,974,000 persons 18 to 20 years old. Table C shows the standard error of 27.8 percent on a base of 9,974,000 to be approximately 0.6 percentage points.

Since the numerator of the percentage is less than 5,000,000, the appropriate factor is 1.7 as shown in table E. Multiplying the 0.6 by this factor, the standard error of 27.8 percent on a base of 9,974,000 for mobility data is 1.0 percentage points. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 27.8 percent would be within 1.0 percentage points of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 2.0 percentage points of a complete census figure; i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 25.8 to 29.8 percent.