

Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The figures in this report for March 1979 and March 1978 are sample survey data and relate to the noninstitutional population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Members of the Armed Forces living off post are included, but all other members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The March 1979 survey included 874,000 members of the Armed Forces and the March 1978 survey includes 824,000 members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post.

Population figures shown for States and SMSA's are based on weighted results of the Current Population Survey and have not been adjusted to independent Census Bureau estimates.

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, Black, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black. In this report, "other races" are usually shown in combination with the Black population.

Spanish origin. Information on origin or descent was obtained by asking "What is (this person's) origin or descent?" Responses generally refer to a person's perceived national or ethnic lineage and do not necessarily indicate the country of birth of himself or his parents.

Persons of Spanish origin are persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano were combined into the one category: Mexican. Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

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. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

The median years of school completed is defined as the value which divides the population into two equal parts—one half having completed more schooling and one-half having completed less schooling than the median. This median was computed after the statistics on years of school completed had been converted to a continuous series of numbers (e.g., completion of the first year of high school was treated as completion of the 9th year and the completion of the first year of college as completion of the 13th year). The persons completing a given school year were assumed to be distributed evenly within the interval from .0 to .9 of the year (for example, persons completing the 12th year were assumed to be distributed evenly between 12.0 and 12.9). In fact, at the time of the March survey, most of the enrolled persons had completed about three-fourths of a school year beyond the highest grade completed, whereas a large majority of persons who were not enrolled had not attended any part of a grade beyond the highest one completed. The effect of the assumption is to place the median for younger persons slightly below, and for older persons' slightly above, the true median. Because of the inexact assumption as to the distribution within an interval, this median is more appropriately used for comparing groups and the same group at different dates than as an absolute measure of educational attainment.

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 county. 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 1970 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 has at least 250,000 inhabitants.

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

Comparability of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan data from the 1979 CPS with data for previous years. Changes in CPS design and procedures over the last several years have made the annual series of sample population data for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas inconsistent. Analytic comparisons of year-to-year changes in these figures should be avoided. Trends in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan population growth over the period from 1970 to 1979 and from 1976 to 1979 should not be appreciably affected by the procedural changes.

The major revisions to the CPS sample design and estimation methods have involved the expansion of the number of sample units from 55,000 housing units to 65,500 housing units. This incorporation of approximately 10,000 supplemental housing units into the March CPS sample in 1977 was accompanied by new procedures for inflating the sample results to reflect national estimates. It was determined subsequent to the introduction of the additional sample that the new inflating (weighting) procedures used for processing both the March 1977 and March 1978 CPS supplement data had resulted in an apparent overestimate of the nonmetropolitan population and corresponding underestimate of the metropolitan population for those years. For March 1979, another revision of the weighting process was introduced to correct the problem discovered in the earlier procedures. The result of this change was a large spurious increase in the metropolitan population and decrease in the nonmetropolitan population relative to March 1978 levels.

The March 1979 CPS metropolitan/nonmetropolitan population estimates also reflect other operational changes including the introduction of a coverage improvement sample designed to provide greater accuracy in survey estimation. The net effect of all changes in procedure was to increase the metropolitan area estimates. Research and detailed analysis of the impact of each procedural change on the population estimates is underway and the results will be issued in a forthcoming technical report.

Farm-nonfarm residence. The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. The method of determining farm-nonfarm residence in the Current Population Surveys since March 1960 is the same as that used in the 1960 census but differs from that used in earlier censuses.

The nonfarm population, as the term is used here, comprises persons living in urban areas and all rural persons not on farms.

According to the current definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of less than 10 acres yielding agricultural products which sold for \$250 or more in the previous year, or on places of 10 acres or more yielding agricultural products which sold for \$50 or more in the previous year. Rural persons in institutions, motels, and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming are not classified as farm population.

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.

The North as used in this report includes the combined Northeast and North Central regions.

Employed. Employed persons comprise those civilians 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 (2) "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, labor-management dispute, bad weather, or because they were taking the week off for various other reasons.

Occupation. Data on occupation are shown for the employed and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two jobs or more were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The major groups used here are generally the major groups used in the 1970 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in 1970 Census of Population, Vol. I, *Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary*.

Four occupation divisions. The major groups are arranged in four divisions as follows:

White collar. Professional, technical, and kindred workers; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers; and clerical and kindred workers.

Blue collar. Crafts and kindred workers; operatives, except transport; transport equipment operatives; and laborers, except farm.

Farm workers. Farmers and farm managers, farm laborers, and farm supervisors.

Service workers. Service workers including private household.

The sequence in which these four divisions appear is not intended to imply that any division has a higher social or skill level than another.

Symbols. A dash (—) represents zero or rounds to zero, and the symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than 75,000. An "X" means not applicable, and "NA" means not available.

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