

# School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students (Update)

*Population Characteristics*

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## DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available on school enrollment of the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States, based on the October 1998 Current Population Survey (CPS). These tables provide information such as:

- More than one-fourth of the population, 72.1 million people, were enrolled in regular school — nursery school through college.
- About 8.4 million children were enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten, 32.6 million in elementary school, 15.6 million in high school, and 15.5 million in college.<sup>1</sup>
- Among people enrolled in school in 1998, 65.1 percent were non-Hispanic White, 15.5 percent were non-Hispanic Black, 4.6 percent were non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander, and 13.2 percent were Hispanic.<sup>2</sup>
- The number of elementary and high school students, 48 million, remains just short of the all-time high of 49 million reached in 1970, when baby-boom children attended school.
- About 19.8 percent (9.5 million) of elementary and high school students have at least one foreign-born parent, while 4.9 percent (2.4 million) of elementary and high school students are themselves foreign born.
- Among students enrolled in elementary and high school in 1998, 63.8 percent were non-Hispanic White, 16.1 percent were non-Hispanic Black, 4.1 percent were non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander, and 14.3 percent were Hispanic.

<sup>1</sup>The estimates for high school and college enrollment were not significantly different from each other.

<sup>2</sup>Hispanics may be of any race.

- During the 1-year period from October 1997 to October 1998, about 4.4 percent or 479,000 of all students in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade dropped out of high school.
- The dropout pool (people not enrolled in school and not high school graduates) of young adults 18 to 24 years old totaled 3.5 million or 13.9 percent of this age group.
- Among students enrolled in college, 70.8 percent were non-Hispanic White, 12.6 percent were non-Hispanic Black, 6.5 percent were non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander, and 8.8 percent were Hispanic.
- The number of traditional college-age students (those under 25 years old) remains at the record high level of 9.4 million reached in 1997.

## DETAILED TABULATIONS

The set of newly revised detailed tabulations consists of 15 tables from the 1998 October CPS (213 pages) and seven historical tables. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, go to Subjects A-Z, then click on "S," and then on "School Enrollment."

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-119 for \$39. To receive a paper copy, send a request for "PPL-119, School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1998 (Update)," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$39 payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call the Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without

## Current Population Reports

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charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update. Contact the Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on these topics, contact Gladys M. Martinez or Andrea E. Curry, Education and Social Stratification Branch, on 301-457-2464 or via Internet e-mail, (Gladys.M.Martinez@ccmail.census.gov or acurry@census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability since they are not based on a complete enumeration of the population. For information on the source

of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors, contact John M. Finamore, Demographic Statistical Methods Division (301-457-4183) or via Internet e-mail, (John.M.Finamore@ccmail.census.gov).

## NOTICE TO USERS

Short updates of major findings from the Current Population Survey will be made available in both printed and electronic form for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. To

obtain the new tabulations for October 1998, updating *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1997* (Current Population Reports, P20-516), please see the “Detailed Tabulations” section.

The decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, it is hoped that this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. Comments about this change or the P20 series in general may be made by contacting the Census Bureau on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or by writing to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233.

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