

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

December 27, 1957

Washington 25, D. C.

Series P-20, No. 77

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: MARCH 1957

About 7½ million persons in the United States are college graduates, according to the results of the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census in March 1957. This is about 2 million more than the number of college graduates enumerated in the decennial census of April 1950. The tendency today for a greater proportion of the young people to continue their schooling until they complete college is reflected in the fact that 1 out of 10 persons 25 to 34 years old has completed 4 years or more of college, as compared with 1 out of 15 persons 35 years of age and over.

The average American adult has completed about 10½ years of schooling. Between 1950 and 1957, the average (median) educational level increased one full year. Most of the improvement was due to the fact that persons reaching adult ages, defined here as 25 years old and over, had been better educated than their parents and grandparents, many of whom were leaving the population through death.

The average educational level was higher for whites than for nonwhites, but there was evidence, from education data by age, that the difference was narrowing. By 1957, white adult persons had completed 11.0 years of school, on the average, as compared with 7.7 years for nonwhite adults. Between 1940 and 1957, the increase in the average number of school years was the same for nonwhites of both sexes and for white men (about 2 years), though somewhat greater for white women (2½ years). For persons 25 to 29 years old, who recently completed their education, however, the increase in the level of education was greater for nonwhites than for whites.

In 1957, women had a somewhat higher median educational attainment (10.9 years) than men (10.3

years). This relationship held for both whites (11.3 years vs. 10.7 years) and nonwhites (8.1 years vs. 7.3 years) (table A).

Table A.--MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY PERSONS 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER AND 25 TO 29 YEARS OLD, BY COLOR AND SEX: 1940 TO 1957

Date and age	Total		White		Nonwhite	
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male
25 YEARS AND OVER						
April 1940.....	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.8	5.4	6.1
April 1947.....	8.9	9.3	9.0	9.7	6.6	7.2
April 1950.....	9.0	9.6	9.3	10.0	6.4	7.2
October 1952.....	9.7	10.4	10.1	10.8	6.8	7.4
March 1957.....	10.3	10.9	10.7	11.3	7.3	8.1
Increase, 1940 to 1957..	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5	1.9	2.0
25 TO 29 YEARS						
April 1940.....	10.1	10.5	10.5	10.9	6.5	7.5
March 1957.....	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.3	9.4	10.3
Increase, 1940 to 1957..	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.4	2.9	2.8

Statistics introduced for the first time in the survey indicate that, within each occupation group, men of prime working ages received more annual income if they were high school graduates than if they had not completed high school. For example, among clerical and sales workers, about 37 percent of men who finished 4 years of high school had incomes of \$6,000 or more, as compared with only 10 percent of those who had not finished 4 years of high school. These and other data presented in the accompanying tables provide a measure of the money value of completing high levels of education.

Data on educational attainment are given in this report for the population 14 years old and over, by age. It should be pointed out that the population 14

to 24 years old includes many persons who were still attending school at the time of the survey, whereas the population 25 years old and over includes mainly persons who had completed their formal schooling.

Since the statistics presented in this report are estimates based on sample surveys, they are subject to sampling variability. If use is made of the smaller figures, or of small differences between figures based on the survey, particular care should be exercised, as explained below in the section on "Source and reliability of the estimates."

Cumulative levels of school completed.--About 40 percent of the population 14 years old and over were high school graduates, at the time of the survey. College graduates constituted 8 percent of the males, and 5 percent of the females, who were 14 years old and over. On the other hand, persons completing less than 5 years of elementary school were as numerous as college graduates. About 9 percent of the males and 7 percent of the females 14 years old and over had not completed as many as 5 years of schooling (table B).

Table B.--CUMULATIVE LEVEL OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED BY PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CIVILIAN POPULATION, MARCH 1957

Age and sex	Total ¹	Completed less than 5 years of elementary school	Completed at least--			Percent distribution				
			8 years of elementary school	4 years of high school	4 years of college	Total ¹	Completed less than 5 years of elementary school	Completed at least--		
								8 years of elementary school	4 years of high school	4 years of college
Male, 14 years and over...	57,470,000	4,940,000	43,815,000	21,546,000	4,572,000	100.0	8.6	76.2	37.5	8.0
14 to 24 years.....	11,262,000	330,000	9,354,000	3,610,000	213,000	100.0	2.9	83.1	32.1	1.9
25 to 34 years.....	11,368,000	423,000	9,879,000	6,279,000	1,556,000	100.0	3.7	86.9	55.2	13.7
35 to 54 years.....	20,873,000	1,491,000	16,499,000	8,725,000	1,972,000	100.0	7.1	79.0	41.8	9.4
55 years and over.....	13,967,000	2,696,000	8,083,000	2,932,000	831,000	100.0	19.3	57.9	21.0	5.9
Female, 14 years and over.	61,863,000	4,176,000	49,595,000	25,753,000	3,065,000	100.0	6.8	80.2	41.6	5.0
14 to 24 years.....	12,441,000	225,000	11,006,000	4,700,000	252,000	100.0	1.8	88.5	37.8	2.0
25 to 34 years.....	12,069,000	327,000	10,879,000	7,274,000	795,000	100.0	2.7	90.1	60.3	6.6
35 to 54 years.....	21,772,000	1,167,000	17,882,000	9,924,000	1,388,000	100.0	5.4	82.1	45.6	6.4
55 years and over.....	15,581,000	2,457,000	9,828,000	3,855,000	630,000	100.0	15.8	63.1	24.7	4.0

¹ Includes persons not reporting years of school completed, not included in distribution.

Level of school completed by color and marital status.--The proportions who were high school graduates and college graduates varied among population groups having different characteristics. For instance, among adult women, a significantly higher proportion of whites than nonwhites (45 percent vs. 19 percent) had completed at least 4 years of high school. Among adult men, 10 percent of the whites, as compared with less than 3 percent of nonwhites, were college graduates (table C).

Among persons 25 years old and over (not classified by age), a greater percent of single, than married, widowed, or divorced people had completed 4 years of college or more. This held true for both men and women. Part of the educational difference among marital status groups was due to the fact that married, divorced, and, particularly, widowed people

The proportion of adults who completed high school and college was highest for the younger age groups. About half of the men 25 to 34 years old were high school graduates, as compared with somewhat less than half of those 35 to 54 years of age, and about one-fifth of the group 55 years old and over. College graduates constituted about 14 percent of the youngest group, 9 percent of the central age group, and 6 percent of the oldest group of men. The attainment patterns by age were similar for women, but fewer women at each age were college graduates.

More of the persons at the older ages than at the younger ages had completed less than 5 years of schooling. About 19 percent of the men and 16 percent of the women 55 years old and over had not completed as many as 5 school years, whereas 7 percent of men and 5 percent of women 35 to 54 years old, and even smaller percentages of the younger group, were included at that low educational level. This pattern reflects the tendency, in recent decades, for more youths to continue their schooling through the upper levels of education.

were older, on the average, than single persons and thus went to school when, generally, fewer persons went to college. Figures not shown in the accompanying tables indicate that, in most age groups 25 and over, married men and single women have the highest average amounts of education.

Average educational attainment by age and sex.--By March 1957, youths 14 to 17 years old had completed an average (median) of 9.2 years of school (table 1). Since a large percent of persons in this age group were still enrolled in school at the time of the survey, the highest grade of school completed was usually the grade below the one in which they were enrolled. Persons 18 and 19 years old had completed 12.0 years of school, and those 20 to 24 years old had finished 12.3 school years, on the average.

Table C.--CUMULATIVE LEVEL OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED BY PERSONS 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY COLOR, MARITAL STATUS, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CIVILIAN POPULATION, MARCH 1957

Color, marital status, and sex	Total population, 25 years and over	Percent by level of schooling completed					School years not reported
		Total	Completed less than 8 years of elementary school	Completed at least--			
				8 years of elementary school	4 years of high school	4 years of college	
COLOR							
Male.....	46,208,000	100.0	23.2	74.6	38.8	9.4	2.2
White.....	41,938,000	100.0	20.1	77.9	41.1	10.1	2.0
Nonwhite.....	4,270,000	100.0	53.5	42.4	16.3	2.6	4.1
Female.....	49,422,000	100.0	20.3	78.1	42.6	5.7	1.6
White.....	44,688,000	100.0	17.4	81.0	45.1	6.0	1.6
Nonwhite.....	4,734,000	100.0	47.8	50.2	19.3	2.9	1.9
MARITAL STATUS							
Male.....	46,208,000	100.0	23.2	74.6	38.8	9.4	2.2
Single.....	4,792,000	100.0	23.1	71.9	40.8	12.7	5.0
Married.....	38,214,000	100.0	21.8	76.7	40.1	9.5	1.5
Widowed or divorced.....	3,202,000	100.0	40.2	53.4	19.9	3.9	6.4
Female.....	49,422,000	100.0	20.3	78.1	42.6	5.7	1.6
Single.....	3,749,000	100.0	15.6	81.1	55.6	16.2	3.3
Married.....	36,612,000	100.0	17.6	81.5	45.5	5.2	0.9
Widowed or divorced.....	9,061,000	100.0	33.5	63.0	25.7	3.4	3.6

There was a tendency for girls in their teens to have completed almost one-half grade more of school than boys in their teens. For persons 20 to 24 years old, however, the medians for the two sexes were the same.

Rising educational standards are reflected in the fact that the average educational attainment of each age group is higher than that of each older age group. The average person 65 years old and over completed elementary school (8.3 years); 45- to 54-year-olds completed 2 years of high school (10.0 years), on the average; and the average person 25 to 29 years old completed a high school education (12.3 years).

Although the pattern of education by age was similar for the sexes, women tended to have higher educational attainment than men in specific ages.

The differences were small for most age groups, but were pronounced in the age group 45 to 54 years. For those ages, the median number of school years completed was 10.3 for women and 9.6 for men.

At the lower end of the education scale, persons completing fewer than 5 years of school constituted about 3 percent of those 25 to 29 years old, 8 percent of those 45 to 54 years old, and 22 percent of those 65 years old and over.

Years of college completed.--Although a greater proportion of women than men 14 years old and over had completed high school, a smaller proportion of women had completed schooling beyond high school. By March 1957, about 1 out of 6 males, and 1 out of 8 females, 14 years old and over, had completed at least 1 year of college. Of these persons, about one-half had finished 4 years or more.

Table D.--YEARS OF COLLEGE COMPLETED BY PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CIVILIAN POPULATION, MARCH 1957

Age and sex	Total with 1 year of college or more	Years of college completed					Total with 1 year of college or more	Percent distribution				
		1	2	3	4	5 or more		Years of college completed				
								1	2	3	4	5 or more
Total, 14 yrs. and over..	16,584,000	3,256,000	4,100,000	1,592,000	5,367,000	2,269,000	100.0	19.6	24.7	9.6	32.4	13.7
14 to 24 years.....	2,429,000	844,000	735,000	386,000	387,000	77,000	100.0	34.7	30.3	15.9	15.9	3.2
25 to 34 years.....	4,625,000	843,000	1,027,000	404,000	1,706,000	645,000	100.0	18.2	22.2	8.7	36.9	13.9
35 years and over.....	9,530,000	1,569,000	2,338,000	802,000	3,274,000	1,547,000	100.0	16.5	24.5	8.4	34.4	16.2
Male, 14 years and over....	9,003,000	1,638,000	1,964,000	829,000	2,903,000	1,669,000	100.0	18.2	21.8	9.2	32.2	18.5
14 to 24 years.....	1,297,000	455,000	400,000	229,000	167,000	46,000	100.0	35.1	30.8	17.7	12.9	3.5
25 to 34 years.....	2,737,000	441,000	509,000	231,000	1,031,000	525,000	100.0	16.1	18.6	8.4	37.7	19.2
35 years and over.....	4,969,000	742,000	1,055,000	369,000	1,705,000	1,098,000	100.0	14.9	21.2	7.4	34.3	22.1
Female, 14 years and over..	7,581,000	1,618,000	2,136,000	763,000	2,464,000	600,000	100.0	21.3	28.2	10.1	32.5	7.9
14 to 24 years.....	1,132,000	389,000	335,000	157,000	220,000	31,000	100.0	34.4	29.6	13.9	19.4	2.7
25 to 34 years.....	1,888,000	402,000	518,000	173,000	675,000	120,000	100.0	21.3	27.4	9.2	35.8	6.4
35 years and over.....	4,561,000	827,000	1,283,000	433,000	1,569,000	449,000	100.0	18.1	28.1	9.5	34.4	9.8

Men were more likely than women, among those with some college training, to have gone on to graduate (table D).

About 3 out of 10 college graduates also had completed 1 year or more of graduate or professional school. In each adult age group, men were more inclined than women to have completed a year or more of graduate or professional school beyond 4 years of college.

Average educational attainment by color.--The median number of school years completed by nonwhite persons (7.7 years) was considerably less than for white persons (11.0 years) in the age group 25 and over. Differences were greatest at the oldest ages and least at the youngest ages (tables 1 and 3).

Average educational attainment of rural-farm persons.--The median level of educational attainment of rural-farm adults, obtained through the survey, was 8.6 years, as compared with 10.6 years for the total population 25 years old and over. Differences were greatest at the central ages. Among persons in the range 35 to 44 years of age, the median was 9.2 years for the rural-farm people and 12.0 for the total population (table 4).

In general, rural-farm women had more education than their male counterparts. The proportion of females in rural-farm areas who had completed at least 4 years of high school exceeded that of rural-farm men. Likewise, there was a smaller proportion of farm women than farm men who had completed less than 5 years of schooling.

Changes since 1950.--As indicated earlier, the average educational level of the adult population increased 1.3 years between April 1950 and March 1957. Comparison of the median school years completed at specific ages for these two dates helps to explain much of the increase. Though differences in most age groups were small, persons 35 to 44 years old had completed, on the average, 1.7 years more in 1957 than in 1950, and persons 45 to 54 years of age averaged 1.2 years more at the later date (tables 1 and 2). The better educated youth of recent past years are now advancing into the middle-age groups. Also, the group that was 35 to 44 years old in 1957 included many men who had made use of benefits from the GI Bill to extend their high school or college training.

Average educational attainment by occupation and income.--Data for men 35 to 54 years old who were year-round full-time workers show the difference in educational attainment of those in the several major occupation groups. The average professional person in this group had completed a college education (median of 16 years or more); managers, officials, and proprietors, and clerical and sales workers had completed high school (median of 12.4 years), on the average. By comparison, the average craftsman or foreman had finished 2 years of high school (10.2 years); operatives had completed 1 year of high school (9.1 years); and the average person in other occupations, including private household workers, service workers, and laborers, had an elementary school education (8.4 years). The median educational attainment of farmers and farm managers stood at 8.6 years (table E),

Table E.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF MEN 35 TO 54 YEARS OLD WHO WERE YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1957

(Based on about three-fourths of all sample households; see "Definitions and explanations")

Major occupation group	Total	Years of school completed						Median school years completed
		Elementary school		High school		College		
		Less than 8 years	8 years	1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 years or more	
All occupations.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	10.8
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	8.7	0.4	0.9	1.9	6.2	15.8	56.5	16+
Farmers and farm managers.....	7.3	12.9	11.7	4.9	5.1	4.9	0.6	8.6
Managers, officials, and proprietors, exc. farm..	14.5	4.9	9.3	12.0	20.7	25.5	24.1	12.4
Self-employed.....	7.2	3.7	5.9	7.5	8.9	10.3	8.8	12.1
Salaried.....	7.3	1.2	3.3	4.5	11.9	15.2	15.3	12.6
Clerical, sales, and kindred workers.....	11.0	2.8	5.9	9.2	18.4	23.5	11.2	12.4
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.....	23.1	20.3	27.0	31.7	24.4	16.2	3.9	10.2
Operatives and kindred workers.....	21.4	28.0	28.4	28.8	16.9	7.5	1.5	9.1
All other.....	14.0	30.7	16.8	11.5	8.3	6.5	2.2	8.4

Educational differences were also apparent among men at different income levels. For instance, men who had total money income of less than \$2,000 averaged 8.2 years of school. By contrast, men having incomes of \$6,000 or more had completed an average of 12.6 years of school (table F).

According to survey results, two-thirds of the men who were college graduates had incomes of \$6,000 or more per year. By comparison, only one-third of those who had completed high school but no college, and 1 in 14 who had not finished elementary schooling received that much income.

Table F.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1956 OF MEN 35 TO 54 YEARS OLD WHO WERE YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1957

(Based on about three-fourths of all sample households; see "Definitions and explanations")

Total money income	Total	Years of school completed						Median school years completed
		Elementary school		High school		College		
		Less than 8 years	8 years	1 to 3 years	4 years	1 to 3 years	4 years or more	
All income groups.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	10.8
Under \$2,000.....	12.3	29.8	14.6	8.0	5.7	7.8	3.4	8.2
\$2,000 to \$3,999.....	25.1	39.4	31.9	25.4	18.9	11.7	9.3	8.9
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	36.7	24.1	38.4	47.3	43.1	34.6	20.3	11.1
\$6,000 to \$7,999.....	21.5	5.5	12.9	15.4	26.9	38.9	54.4	12.6
\$8,000 and over.....	4.5	1.2	2.2	3.8	5.4	7.0	12.6	12.6

Within each occupational group, the amount of income received varied with the level of educational attainment (table G). To illustrate, among self-employed managers, officials, and proprietors, 53

percent of those who had completed high school had incomes of \$6,000 or more, as compared with only 21 percent of those who had not finished a high school education.

Table G.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1956 OF MEN 35 TO 54 YEARS OLD WHO WERE YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS, BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1957

(Based on about three-fourths of all sample households; see "Definitions and explanations." Percent not shown where base is less than 200,000)

Level of education completed and amount of money income	All occupations	Major occupation group							All other
		Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm managers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm		Clerical, sales, and kindred workers	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kindred workers	
				Self-employed	Salaried				
Less than 4 years of high school..	100.0	...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$4,000.....	49.2	...	88.7	50.1	23.8	42.1	31.4	42.0	72.2
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	37.0	...	6.3	28.8	26.7	47.9	47.9	46.0	24.3
\$6,000 and over.....	13.8	...	5.1	21.1	49.5	10.0	20.7	12.0	3.5
4 years of high school or more....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$4,000.....	21.0	13.0	66.2	26.5	8.6	17.8	16.2	24.5	50.0
\$4,000 to \$5,999.....	36.4	26.0	18.2	20.9	25.8	45.2	44.9	55.8	39.5
\$6,000 and over.....	42.5	61.0	15.7	52.7	65.6	37.1	38.9	19.7	10.5

RELATED REPORTS

Additional statistics on educational attainment for March 1957 are presented in other Series P-20 reports on marital status, religion, and fertility, in a Series P-50 report on educational attainment of workers, and in a Series P-60 report on income of employed persons. Data on educational attainment for persons 14 years old and over were last published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 45, for October 1952.

Statistics on fall school enrollment, as of October each year, are published in Series P-20 reports, and were last shown in Series P-20, No. 74, for October 1956. Data on literacy of the population 14 years old and over are available for October 1952 in Series P-20, No. 45.

1950 Census data.--Statistics on educational attainment for April 1950, shown in this report, refer to data collected in connection with the 1950 Census of Population. Additional data on this

subject for cities, counties, standard metropolitan areas, States, regions, and the United States appear in Volume II of the decennial census reports. Detailed statistics on educational attainment by age and socio-economic characteristics for regions and the United States are presented in a special report of the 1950 Census (Vol. IV, Special Reports, Part 5, Chapter B, Education).

Comparability.--Data on educational attainment from the Current Population Survey for March 1957 may differ from the census data for April 1950 for several reasons. In the first place, some few persons who had not completed a grade by March may have completed it by April of that year. Second, the data for March 1957 exclude members of the Armed Forces living in barracks on post in the United States. This group was included in the 1950 Census. Third, the small group of Current Population Survey enumerators were more experienced and had more intensive training and supervision than the large number of temporary census enumerators and may have more often obtained more accurate answers from respondents.

The attainment figures from the Current Population Survey for October 1952 excluded inmates of institutions and members of the Armed Forces living in barracks on post. Also, many persons of a given age who were still in school may have completed a school grade by October that they had not finished by March or April.

Data on years of school completed for 1947 and 1940 were based on responses to a one-part question on highest grade of school completed, rather than the two-part question used in subsequent years. (See section on "Definitions and explanations.") There may have been a greater tendency toward overstatement of years of school completed in 1947 and 1940 when only the one-part question was asked.

Despite these several types of differences, however, the conclusions that are drawn from comparison of the data for different years should not be seriously affected.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The figures for March 1957 in tables 1 to 4 and A to D of this report relate primarily to the civilian population. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in March 1957 are included, but all other members of the Armed Forces are excluded. For convenience, the population covered is referred to as the civilian population.

The figures in tables E to G of this report are derived from a subsample of the Current Population Survey sample. All of the data on income and occupation are obtained from this subsample, which amounts to about three-fourths of the Current Population Survey sample. The population base for tables E to G excludes not only persons not in the income subsample but also persons who did not report on income or on educational attainment and others not employed or not year-round full-time workers.

Rural-farm residence.--The definition of rural-farm residence used in the present report is the same as that used in the 1950 Census, and defined in Volume II of the reports of the 1950 Census of Population.

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

Color.--The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and non-white. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Years of school completed.--Data on years of school completed in this report, for both 1957 and 1950, were derived from the combination of answers to two questions, (a) "What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?"

The questions on educational attainment applied 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 advances a person toward an elementary 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 group into two equal parts--one-half having completed more schooling and one-half having completed less schooling than the median. These medians are expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers representing years of school completed. For example, the completion of the first year of high school is indicated by 9 and the first year of college by 13.

Marital status.--The marital status classification identifies four major categories: Single, married, widowed, and divorced. In this report, data are shown for the last two categories combined. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration. Persons who were separated are included in the category "Married."

Employed.--Employed persons comprise 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, or bad weather, or because they were taking time off for various other reasons.

Year-round full-time worker.--A year-round full-time worker is one who worked primarily at full-time jobs for 50 weeks or more during 1956. He is classified as having worked at full-time jobs if he worked 35 hours or more per week during a majority of the weeks in which he worked in 1956.

Major occupation group.--The data on occupation for March 1957 relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed in two jobs or more were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The occupational categories shown are largely the major occupation groups used in the 1950 Census of Population. The composition of these major groups in terms of detailed occupations is shown in Volume II of the reports of the 1950 Census. One major occupation group--managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm--is subdivided into salaried workers and self-employed workers. The category "All other" represents a combination of the categories "Private

household workers," "Service workers, except private household," "Farm laborers and foremen," and "Laborers, except farm and mine."

Income.--Income as defined in this report represents total money income, or the sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income from other sources. Income data in this report refer to money income only, prior to deductions for taxes. Inasmuch as farmers typically receive an important part of their livelihood in the form of goods produced and consumed on the farm rather than in money, this factor should be taken into consideration in comparing the income of persons in farm and nonfarm occupations.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates are based on data obtained monthly in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The current sample design, instituted in May 1956, is spread over 330 areas comprising 638 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 48 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 households are interviewed each month. Another 1,500 occupied units, on the average, 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. There are also about 5,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. Beginning with data for January 1953 these independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1950 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. Prior to 1953 the independent estimates were based on similarly adjusted data from the 1940 Census of Population. To these figures were added the members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post and the 1950 institutional population.

The data in tables E, F, and G are based on a subsample of approximately three-fourths of the households in the Current Population Survey. All other statistics are based on the full sample.

Reliability of estimates.--Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are also subject to errors of response and reporting. These may be relatively large in the case of persons with irregular attachments to the labor market.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, the variations that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors, but does not reflect any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The estimates of standard errors shown in the following table are averages based on recent months and these averages are reasonably applicable to the current statistics for all data shown except those in tables E, F, and G. The figures presented in the table are approximations of the standard errors of various characteristics. In order to derive standard errors which would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the table should be interpreted as providing an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than as the precise standard error for any specific item.

Illustration: An estimated 1,027,000 persons between the ages of 25 and 34 years had completed 2 years of college. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the difference between the estimate and the figure which would have been obtained from a complete census is less than 48,000. Likewise an estimated 9,828,000 females 55 years of age and over had completed at least 8 years of elementary school. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the differences between the estimate and the figure which would have been obtained from a complete census is less than 129,000.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both 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 absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is large (50 percent or greater).

Table H.--STANDARD ERROR OF LEVEL OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Total or white	Non-white	Total or white	Non-white	Total or white	Non-white
10,000.....	5,000	5,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
50,000.....	11,000	10,000	14,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
100,000.....	15,000	14,000	20,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
250,000.....	24,000	21,000	31,000	21,000	22,000	21,000
500,000.....	34,000	30,000	43,000	30,000	31,000	30,000
1,000,000.....	48,000	40,000	60,000	40,000	45,000	40,000
2,500,000.....	75,000	50,000	90,000	50,000	70,000	50,000
5,000,000.....	100,000	50,000	110,000	...	100,000	...
10,000,000.....	140,000	...	140,000	...	130,000	...
20,000,000.....	180,000	...	150,000	...	170,000	...
30,000,000.....	210,000
40,000,000.....	220,000

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