

Population Characteristics

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SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: OCTOBER 1963

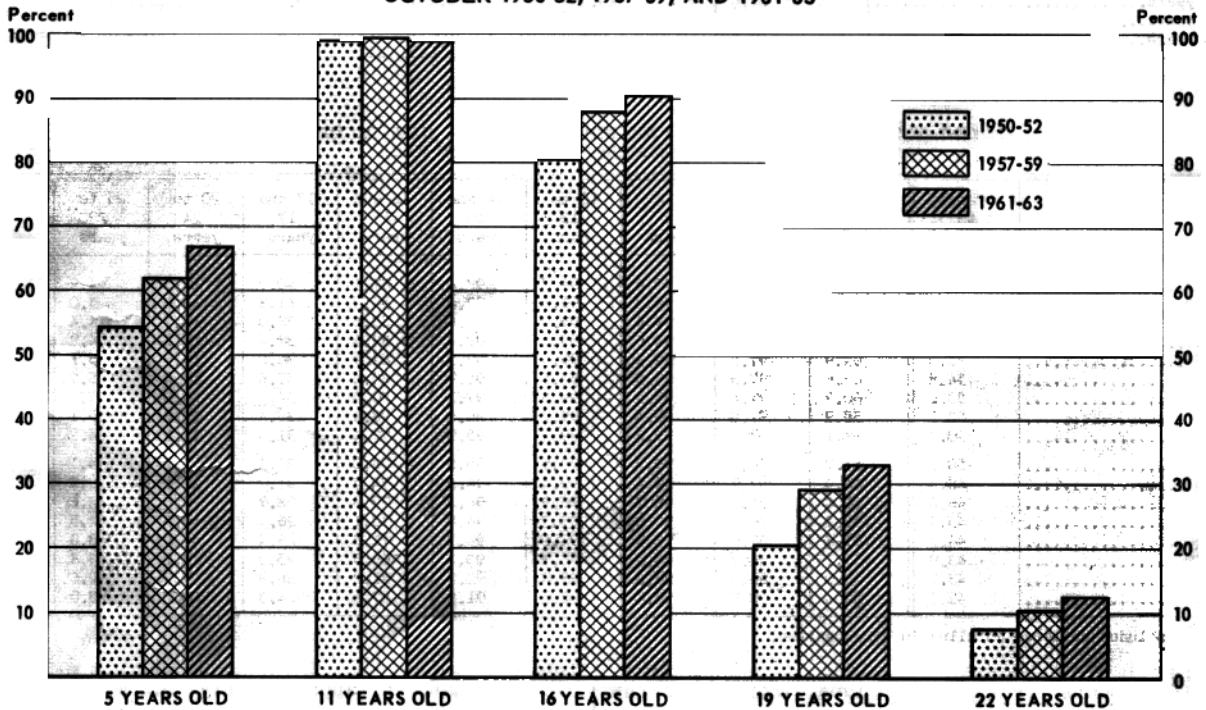
Since 1950, increases in the percent enrolled in school have been greatest among children 5 years of age and among youths 16 to 24 years of age, according to the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Enrollment rates at ages 6 to 15 years remained high throughout the period (tables A and B).

Enrollment of 5-year-olds increased primarily because of greater recent enrollment in kindergarten throughout the country. The rise

in enrollment rates at ages 16 to 24 years reflects the increasing trend toward attainment of a high school diploma and some college education. Increased enrollment at these latter ages has important long-run effects because it tends to raise the average level of educational attainment of the population.

For the years 1961 to 1963, 91 percent of all 16-year-olds were enrolled in school compared with 88 percent for the period 1957 to 1959 and 81 percent in 1950 to 1952 (figure 1).

Figure 1.--PERCENT OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AT SELECTED AGES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: OCTOBER 1950-52, 1957-59, AND 1961-63



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Among 17-year-olds, 78 percent were enrolled in 1961 to 1963 compared with only 65 percent in 1950 to 1952.

The increased percent enrolled in school among 18- to 24-year-olds reflects the growing demand for college and graduate school education. Enrollment at the older college ages, 25 to 29 and

30 to 34, rose between 1947 and 1963, but there were fluctuations in the annual rates (table B). The annual numbers of persons enrolled at these ages have been affected by the fact that war veterans started or resumed their education after World War II and the Korean War.

Table A.--PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 5 TO 24 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: OCTOBER 1950-1952, 1957-1959, AND 1961-1963

(Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Age	Percent enrolled			Increase in percent enrolled		
	1961-1963, average	1957-1959, average	1950-1952, average	1950-1952 to 1961-1963	1957-1959 to 1961-1963	1950-1952 to 1957-1959
Total, 5 to 24 years old ¹	75.0	75.1	67.9	7.1	-0.1	7.2
5 years ¹	66.9	62.3	54.8	12.1	4.6	7.5
6 years ¹	97.6	97.4	96.4	1.2	0.7	1.0
7 years.....	99.2	99.3	98.7	0.5	-0.1	0.6
8 years.....	99.3	99.5	99.0	0.3	-0.2	0.5
9 years.....	99.5	99.6	99.4	0.1	-0.1	0.2
10 years.....	99.3	99.6	99.0	0.3	-0.3	0.6
11 years.....	99.3	99.6	99.0	0.3	-0.3	0.6
12 years.....	99.4	99.4	99.2	0.2	0.0	0.2
13 years.....	99.2	99.2	98.4	0.8	0.0	0.8
14 years.....	98.9	98.6	96.4	2.5	0.3	2.2
15 years.....	97.0	95.7	94.3	2.7	1.3	1.4
16 years.....	91.4	88.4	80.6	10.8	3.0	7.8
17 years.....	77.6	73.5	65.2	12.4	4.1	8.3
18 years.....	46.8	42.8	35.8	11.0	4.0	7.0
19 years.....	33.0	29.3	20.6	12.4	3.7	8.7
20 years.....	26.1	23.0	16.8	9.3	3.1	6.2
21 years.....	20.6	16.6	12.1	8.5	4.0	4.5
22 years.....	12.6	10.5	7.4	5.2	2.1	3.1
23 years.....	9.8	8.4	6.4	3.4	1.4	2.0
24 years.....	7.5	7.6	4.7	2.8	-0.1	2.9

¹ Includes children enrolled in kindergarten.

Table B.--PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 5 TO 34 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: OCTOBER 1947 TO 1963

Year	Total, 5 to 34 years ¹	5 years ¹	6 years ¹	7 to 9 years	10 to 13 years	14 and 15 years	16 and 17 years	18 and 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 29 years	30 to 34 years
1963.....	58.5	67.8	97.4	99.4	99.3	98.4	87.1	40.9	17.3	4.9	2.5
1962.....	57.8	66.8	97.9	99.2	99.3	98.0	84.3	41.8	15.6	5.0	2.6
1961.....	56.8	66.3	97.4	99.4	99.3	97.6	83.6	38.0	13.7	4.4	2.0
1960.....	56.4	63.7	98.0	99.6	99.5	97.8	82.6	38.4	13.1	4.9	2.4
1959.....	55.5	62.9	97.5	99.4	99.4	97.5	82.9	36.8	12.7	5.1	2.2
1958.....	54.8	63.8	97.3	99.5	99.5	96.9	80.6	37.6	13.4	5.7	2.2
1957.....	53.6	60.2	97.4	99.5	99.5	97.1	80.5	34.9	14.0	5.5	1.8
1956.....	52.3	58.9	97.0	99.4	99.2	96.9	78.4	35.4	12.8	5.1	1.9
1955.....	50.8	58.1	98.2	99.2	99.2	95.9	77.4	31.5	11.1	4.2	1.6
1954.....	50.0	57.7	96.8	99.2	99.5	95.8	78.0	32.4	11.2	4.1	1.5
1953.....	48.8	58.4	97.7	99.4	99.4	96.5	74.7	31.2	11.1	2.9	1.7
1952.....	46.8	57.8	96.8	98.7	98.9	96.2	73.4	28.7	9.5	2.6	1.2
1951.....	45.4	53.8	96.0	99.0	99.2	94.8	75.1	26.3	8.3	2.5	0.7
1950.....	44.2	51.8	97.0	98.9	98.6	94.7	71.3	29.4	9.0	3.0	0.9
1949.....	43.9	55.1	96.2	98.5	98.7	93.5	69.5	25.3	9.2	3.8	1.1
1948.....	43.1	55.0	96.2	98.3	98.0	92.7	71.2	26.9	9.7	2.6	0.9
1947.....	42.3	53.4	96.2	98.4	98.6	91.6	67.6	24.3	10.2	3.0	1.0

¹ Includes children enrolled in kindergarten.

Dropouts from 1962 to 1963.--For the first time, data have been collected by the Bureau of the Census which show the number of elementary and high school dropouts at ages 14 to 24 who left school during the year (that is, during the 12 months prior to the survey date). These statistics

reveal that, of approximately 5.2 million persons 14 to 24 years old who were not high school graduates and not enrolled in school in October 1963, about 620,000 had been enrolled in October 1962, and thus may be regarded as school dropouts during the 12-month period (table C). Of these

620,000, five-sixths (517,000) had been enrolled in high school in October 1962. About 22 percent of the dropouts were nonwhite youths. If the 620,000-dropout figure were adjusted to include estimates of persons at these ages who dropped out of school to enter the Armed Forces or an institution, or who were not covered by the survey, the total estimated number of dropouts from October 1962 to October 1963 probably would be about 750,000.

This estimate of annual dropouts may differ from estimates produced by other agencies for the reasons cited under "Data from school systems," in the "Related reports" section of this report.

Table C.--ENROLLMENT STATUS IN OCTOBER 1962 OF THE CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 14 TO 24 YEARS OLD, NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AND NOT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN OCTOBER 1963

(In thousands)

Enrollment status in October 1962 and color	Total	Male	Female
All classes			
Total ¹	5,188	2,411	2,777
Enrolled in school in 1962.....	620	292	328
Below high school.....	103	50	53
High school ²	517	242	275
Not attending school in 1962....	4,453	2,060	2,393
Nonwhite			
Total ¹	1,086	481	605
Enrolled in school in 1962.....	134	61	73
Below high school.....	29	14	15
High school ²	105	47	58
Not attending school in 1962....	919	408	511

¹ Includes persons not reporting enrollment status in 1962.

² Includes persons not reporting level of school in which enrolled in 1962.

Steady rise in enrollment since 1950.--The 50.4 million persons who were enrolled in school in October 1963 represented a 3½-percent increase over the 48.7 million enrolled in 1962 and a 66-percent increase over the 30.3 million enrolled in 1950. Enrollment rates were at about the same level for boys and girls through age 15 (table 2). Among 16- and 17-year-olds, a slightly higher percentage of boys than girls were attending; at ages 18 and over the percent enrolled was substantially higher among males than females.

Enrollment rates rise for both white and nonwhite population.--Improvement over time in the percent enrolled in school has been experienced by both the white and nonwhite population. Between 1953 and 1963, the percent of the population 5 to 34 years old who were enrolled in school rose from 49 to 58 for whites and 47 to 59 for nonwhites (table D). The percentage increase for whites in the first half of the decade was 5.9 percentage points, compared with 3.5 in the last half. Comparable figures for nonwhites were 6.7 and 4.8 percentage points, respectively. Among nonwhite

youths 14 to 17 years old, however, almost the entire increase in enrollment occurred in the last half of the decade. Each year enrollment rates were greater for whites than nonwhites in most age groups, but differences among whites and nonwhites at ages 7 to 19 years generally were smaller in 1963 than in 1958 or 1953.

The fact that the percent enrolled for all persons 5 to 34 years old was approximately the same for nonwhites (59 percent) as for whites (58 percent), despite lower enrollment rates for nonwhites in most of the component age groups, is a reflection of the heavier concentration of the nonwhite population in the younger ages where nearly all persons are enrolled in school.

Table D.--PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION 5 TO 34 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, BY AGE AND COLOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: OCTOBER 1963, 1958, AND 1953

Age	1963		1958		1953	
	White	Non-white	White	Non-white	White	Non-white
Total, 5 to 34 years.....	58.4	58.8	54.9	54.0	49.0	47.3
5 and 6 years....	89.7	76.6	81.4	73.9	80.8	62.7
7 to 13 years....	99.4	99.0	99.6	98.8	99.7	97.3
14 to 17 years....	93.3	90.4	90.0	82.8	86.4	82.3
18 and 19 years..	41.0	39.8	38.1	34.3	31.7	27.6
20 to 24 years....	18.3	10.2	14.1	8.7	11.9	5.4
25 to 29 years....	5.2	3.3	5.9	3.9	3.1	1.7
30 to 34 years....	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.3	1.8	0.8

Enrollment rates by age also differed among regions of the country.--The percent of 5- and 6-year-olds attending kindergarten or elementary school in October 1963 was lower in the South than in the other three regions (table 9). Enrollment rates for children 7 to 13 years old were almost 100 percent in all regions, but regional differences were apparent at ages 14 and over. Smaller proportions of youths and young adults were enrolled in school in the South than in the other three regions. Among persons 18 to 34 years old, enrollment rates were highest in the West. Between 1959 and 1963, the differential between the North Central and Northeast Regions and the West in the percent of 14- to 17-year-olds enrolled in school was reduced. Very little improvement was shown in the South for this age group as a whole, but the difference in enrollment rates for whites and nonwhites narrowed from 5 percentage points in 1959 to almost no difference in 1963.

Total school and college enrollment at all levels reached 50.4 million in October 1963.--Of the total enrollment, 2.3 million were enrolled in kindergarten, 31.2 million in elementary school (grades 1 to 8), 12.4 million in high schools (grades 9 to 12), and 4.3 million were attending colleges and universities. During the five years

from 1958 to 1963, total enrollment increased by 17.4 percent but college enrollment increased by 33.7 percent. The rate of increase in elementary enrollment (grades 1 to 8) was only 10.9 percent compared with 17.5 percent in kindergarten and 31.1 percent in high school.

The rising rate of enrollment of 5- and 6-year-olds in kindergarten reflects increased enrollment in public schools (table E). College enrollment in October 1963, as usual, however, included a much larger percentage of private school enrollment than the other levels (table 6).

Table E.--FALL ENROLLMENT OF 5- AND 6-YEAR-OLDS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE KINDERGARTENS, BY COLOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1963 AND 1958

(Numbers in thousands)

Year, age, and color	Total enrolled in kindergarten	Public	Private
1963			
Total, 5 and 6 years old...	2,340	1,936	404
White.....	2,064	1,699	365
Nonwhite.....	276	237	39
Percent.....	100.0	82.7	17.3
White.....	100.0	82.3	17.7
Nonwhite.....	100.0	85.9	14.1
1958			
Total, 5 and 6 years old...	1,991	1,569	422
White.....	1,769	1,383	386
Nonwhite.....	222	186	36
Percent.....	100.0	78.8	21.2
White.....	100.0	78.2	21.8
Nonwhite.....	100.0	83.8	16.2

Nearly 7 million children were enrolled in junior high school.--In October 1963, about 6.7 million children, or about 38 percent of the total in grades 6 through 10, were enrolled in junior high schools (table F). The largest numbers were in grades 7 to 9, a fact which reflects the predominance of grades 7, 8, and 9 in American junior high schools. Junior high school enrollment accounted for 57.8 percent of the total enrollment at grades 7 to 9 in October 1963.

Table F.--FALL ENROLLMENT IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, BY YEAR OF SCHOOL IN WHICH ENROLLED, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION, OCTOBER 1963

(Numbers in thousands)

Year of school in which enrolled	Total fall enrollment	Junior high school	Not in junior high school	Percent distribution		
				Total fall enrollment	Junior high school	Not in junior high school
Total.....	17,578	6,719	10,859	100.0	38.2	61.8
6th year.....	3,730	319	3,411	100.0	8.6	91.4
7th year.....	3,519	2,186	1,333	100.0	62.1	37.9
8th year.....	3,430	2,227	1,203	100.0	64.9	35.1
9th year.....	3,453	1,598	1,855	100.0	46.3	53.7
10th year.....	3,446	389	3,057	100.0	11.3	88.7

The percent married was higher among men than women college students.--Approximately 26 percent of the men 14 to 34 years old enrolled in college were married, compared with 16 percent of the women at these same ages (table 7). More part-time than full-time students were married; among both groups, however, more men than women students were married. Only 1 percent of all high school students were married. Most high school students who marry do so near the close of their senior year and therefore would not yet be married at the time of the survey in October.

About 1.3 million persons were enrolled in special schools.--In addition to the 50.4 million persons enrolled in regular schools, about another 1.3 million were enrolled in special schools (table 8). These were persons taking trade, business, and vocational courses or other courses which typically are not taken for a regular diploma or degree and which are not taken primarily for social or recreational purposes. Most of those under 14 years of age who were enrolled in special schools were enrolled in schools for the mentally and physically handicapped. Persons 14 years and over were enrolled in such special schools as schools of nursing, schools of beauty culture, or technical and business schools.

About 2 million teachers in primary and secondary schools.--As school enrollment has grown, so also has the number of teachers. The October

Table G.--TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY AGE AND SEX, AND THOSE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE, AND SEX: OCTOBER 1963

(In thousands)

Type of school, marital status, and age	Total	Men	Women
All teachers.....	1,998	615	1,383
Under 25 years.....	239	51	188
25 to 34 years.....	517	245	272
35 to 44 years.....	433	146	287
45 to 54 years.....	451	107	344
55 years and over.....	358	66	292
Public school teachers.....	1,729	536	1,193
Under 25 years.....	212	46	166
25 to 34 years.....	427	200	227
35 to 44 years.....	382	134	248
45 to 54 years.....	410	100	310
55 years and over.....	298	56	242
Married, spouse present....	1,224	476	748
Under 25 years.....	89	30	59
25 to 34 years.....	352	181	171
35 to 44 years.....	313	121	192
45 to 54 years.....	309	93	216
55 years and over.....	161	51	110
Other marital status.....	505	60	445
Under 25 years.....	123	16	107
25 to 34 years.....	75	19	56
35 to 44 years.....	69	13	56
45 to 54 years.....	101	7	94
55 years and over.....	137	5	132

1963 survey places the total teaching force in primary and secondary schools close to 2 million. About 87 percent of these were in public schools. Seven out of ten of the public school teachers were women; 67 percent of the women teachers were 35 years old and over compared with 54 percent of the men. About 63 percent of the women teachers in public schools were married, compared with 89 percent of the men.

The October 1958 survey showed a total of 1,644,000 teachers, about 80 percent of whom were teaching in the public schools. Thus, the number of teachers below the college level increased by about 22 percent in the five-year period while the number of persons enrolled at this level increased 16 percent.¹ A larger percentage of all teachers were in public schools in 1963 than in 1958.

RELATED REPORTS

Advance data on school enrollment for October 1963 were presented in Series P-20, No. 128. Statistics on school enrollment for October of the years prior to 1963 have been published in the following reports in Series P-20, Nos. 126 (1962), 117 (1961), 110 (1960), 101 (1959), 93 (1958), 80 (1957), 74 (1956), 66 (1955), 54 (1954), 52 (1953), 45 (1952), 40 (1951), 34 (1950), 30 (1949), 24 (1948), 19 (1947), 1 (1946); and in Series P-S, No. 9 (1945). Enrollment data for April 1947 were published in Series P-20, No. 12.

Statistics on the economic characteristics of students are presented in an article entitled "The Employment of School Age Youth, October 1963" in the July 1964 issue of the Monthly Labor Review, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the Current Population Survey concerning the college plans of high school seniors, their major fields of study, and the educational characteristics of persons 16 to 24 years old who were not enrolled in school as of October 1959 have been presented in the Census-ERS Series (P-27) No. 30. Additional data on the realization of college plans in relation to ability and socioeconomic factors have been presented in No. 32 of the Census-ERS Series (P-27).

1950 and 1960 Census data.--Statistics on school enrollment for cities, standard metropoli-

tan statistical areas, States, regions, and the United States appear in reports of the decennial censuses. Detailed statistics on school enrollment by age and socioeconomic characteristics for regions and the United States are presented in Subject Reports of the 1960 Census, especially in PC(2)-5A, School Enrollment.

Figures on school enrollment from the October Current Population Surveys differ from decennial census data for reasons in addition to the difference in the dates. In the first place, the survey data exclude the institutional population and members of the Armed Forces. These two groups were included in the census. Second, there were differences in field work. 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. Third, the census was taken in April and relates to enrollment since February 1, whereas the surveys were taken in October and relate to enrollment in the current term. This difference in months of the year affects not only the extent of school enrollment (through "dropouts" during the school year, etc.) but also the level of school in which persons of a given age are enrolled.

Data from school systems.--Information on school enrollment and educational attainment is also collected and published by Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, and by independent research organizations. This information is generally obtained from reports of school systems and institutions of higher learning, and from other surveys and censuses. These data are only roughly comparable with data collected by the Bureau of the Census by household interviews, however, because of differences in definitions, subject matter covered, time references, and enumeration methods. To illustrate, the enrollment figures of the Bureau of the Census tend to be lower than those in the Biennial Survey of Education conducted by the United States Office of Education, largely because the census data refer to shorter time periods and count a person only once, although he may have attended more than one school during the reporting period. In the biennial survey, some persons are included in the enrollment figures more than once, such as those enrolled in both public and private schools and, generally, those enrolled in two different States at any time during the school year. On the other hand, the census data are subject to sampling variability, which may be relatively large where numbers for specific age or population groups, or for given school categories, are small.

¹ Pupil-teacher ratios published by the U.S. Office of Education for the last 5 years indicate a slight decrease in the number of pupils per teacher in full-time public schools. See U.S. Office of Education, Fall 1963 Survey of Enrollment, Teachers and School Housing in Full-time Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1964, table 7, p. 19.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The figures shown are for the civilian population excluding the relatively small number of inmates of institutions. The population covered in this survey includes residents of Alaska and Hawaii.

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 nonwhite. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Marital status.--The marital status category shown in this report, "married, spouse present," includes persons who are currently married and living with their spouse.

School enrollment.--The school enrollment statistics from the current surveys are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include 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. Beginning with 1954, children enrolled in kindergarten have been included in the enrollment figures for "regular" schools, and have also been shown separately. Figures shown in this report on school enrollment for years prior to 1954 have been revised to include children in kindergarten.

Persons attending "special" schools not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges, 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.

School dropouts, 1962 to 1963.--For persons 14 to 24 years old, who were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates in October 1963, a direct question was asked to determine whether they were enrolled in October 1962, and if so, at what level they were enrolled.

Level of school.--The statistics on level of school indicate the number of persons enrolled at each of four levels: Kindergarten, elementary school (first to eighth grades), high school (ninth to twelfth grades), and college or professional school. The last group includes graduate students in colleges 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.

The term "junior high school," as defined in this report, refers not only to separately organized junior high schools, but also to the junior high grades of combined junior-senior high schools, and to the seventh and eighth grades of "undivided high schools," which usually include grades 7 to 12.

Public or private school.--In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Private schools include educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or college which was both publicly and privately controlled or supported, enrollment was counted according to whether it was primarily public or private.

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.

Teachers.--The data on teachers, in this report, refer to persons classified, occupationally, as teaching below the college level. These refer only to currently employed persons whose primary occupation is teaching (including superintendents, principals, etc.); thus, persons who were not teaching at the time of the survey, or who were also employed at another job at which they spent more time, were not included. Teachers were counted as in public schools if they were employed by a governmental unit. The figures on teachers in private schools may include some persons who were teaching outside the "regular" school system.

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 rounded absolute numbers.

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 sample is spread over 357 areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 35,000 occupied households are designated for interview each month. Of this number, 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. In addition to the 35,000, there are also about 5,000 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 the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian non-institutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the 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 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 whole 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 measure 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 figure 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 figures presented in tables H and J are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that 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 tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

Table H contains the standard errors for a given class of persons age 5 to 34 enrolled in school.

Table H.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL
(68 chances out of 100)

Level of estimate	Standard error	Level of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	6,000	1,000,000.....	35,000
50,000.....	8,000	2,500,000.....	60,000
100,000.....	12,000	5,000,000.....	85,000
250,000.....	19,000	10,000,000.....	115,000
500,000.....	25,000	25,000,000.....	125,000

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 on 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 50 percent or greater. Table J shows the standard error of estimated percentages for a given class of persons age 5 to 34 enrolled in school.

Table J.--STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL
(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of estimated percentage (thousands)						
	500	1,000	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	75,000
2 or 98.....	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90.....	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
25 or 75.....	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
50.....	2.7	1.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2

Table I shows an estimated 16,720,000 males age 5 to 13 years enrolled in school in the fall of 1963. Table H shows the standard error on this figure, using linear interpolation, to be approximately 119,000. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have shown a figure differing from the sample result by less than 119,000. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would have been less than 238,000 (twice the standard error).

Of these 16,720,000 males, an estimated 3,440,000, or 20.6 percent, were either 5 or 6 years old. Table J shows the standard error on 20.6 percent with a base of 16,720,000 to be about 0.4 percent. Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have shown this figure to be between 20.2 and 21.0 percent, and 95 chances out of 100 that it would have been between 19.8 and 21.4 percent.