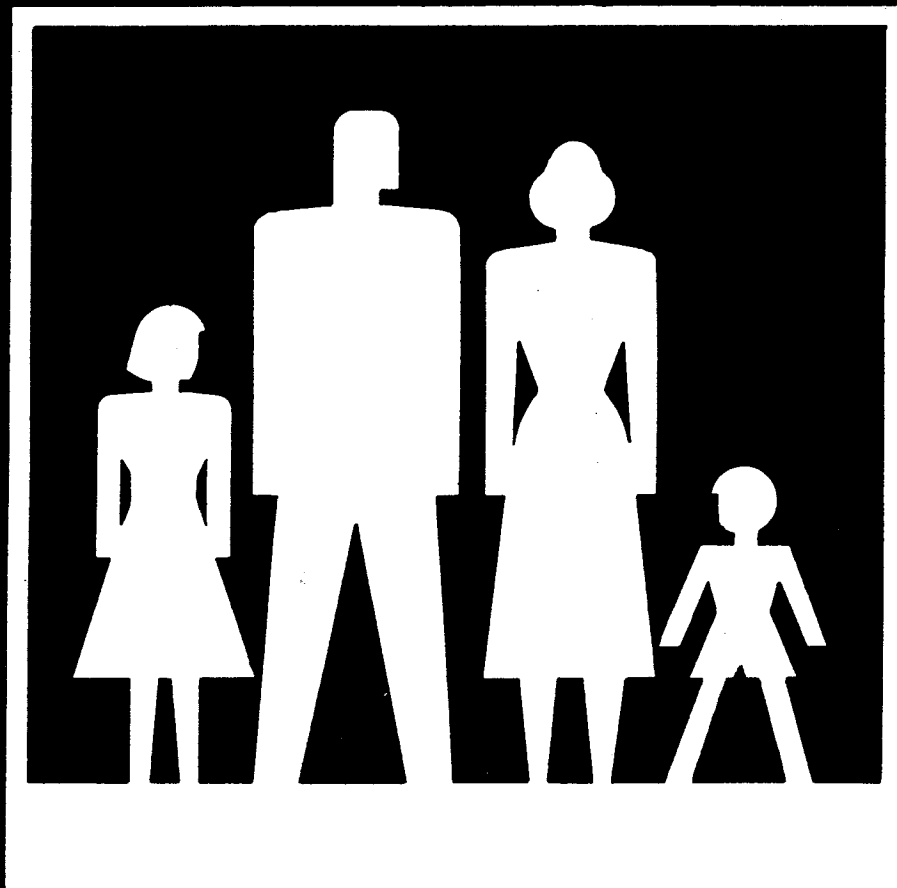


1950 UNITED STATES CENSUS OF POPULATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



ALASKA

**GENERAL
CHARACTERISTICS**

UNITED STATES CENSUS of POPULATION : 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
CHARLES SAWYER, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ROY V. PEEL, Director



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

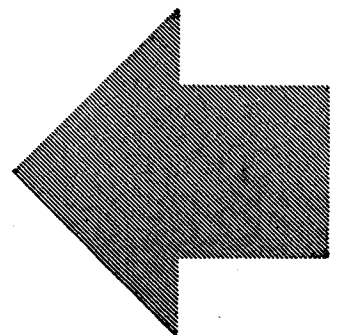
ALASKA

*Prepared under the supervision of
Howard G. Brunzman, Chief
Population and Housing Division*

1950 POPULATION CENSUS REPORT P-B51
PREPRINT OF VOL. II, PART 51, CHAPTER B
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1952

General data on

**AGE • SEX • RACE • MARITAL STATUS •
EDUCATION • EMPLOYMENT • INCOME •
OCCUPATION • INDUSTRY • ETC.**





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SUGGESTED IDENTIFICATION

U. S. Bureau of the Census. *U. S. Census of Population: 1950. Vol. II, Characteristics of the Population,*
Part 51, Alaska. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1952.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.,
or any of the Field Offices of the Department of Commerce - - - - - Price 25 cents

PREFACE

This bulletin presents statistics on the general characteristics of the population of Alaska, its judicial divisions, urban places, and other constituent areas. These data are based upon tabulations from the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population of the United States, its Territories and possessions, conducted as of April 1, 1950. Provision for the Seventeenth Decennial Census was made in the act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses which was approved on June 18, 1929.

The major portion of the information compiled from the Census of Population of 1950 will appear in Volume I, *Number of Inhabitants*, and in Volume II, *Characteristics of the Population*. These final volumes are first appearing in the form of three series of bulletins: Series P-A, "Number of Inhabitants"; Series P-B, "General Characteristics"; and Series P-C, "Detailed Characteristics."

Final Population Volumes I and II will be assembled as follows:

Population Volume I will comprise the Series P-A bulletins, thereby providing the public with a single publication giving the distribution of the Nation's inhabitants among and within the States, Territories, and possessions.

Population Volume II will comprise all three series of bulletins (Series P-A, P-B, and P-C). When bound, this volume will be divided into State parts, each part comprising the three bulletins for that State. All reports for a given State will thereby be made available within a single binding. The three bulletin series (P-A, P-B, and P-C) represent Chapters A, B, and C of the corresponding State part of Population Volume II. The Series P-A, P-B, and P-C bulletins for the Territories and possessions will be arranged within a single binding.

The materials presented here were prepared under the supervision of Howard G. Brunsmann, Chief, Population and Housing Division, and Robert B. Voight, Assistant Chief for Operations, with the assistance of Edwin D. Goldfield, Program Coordinator. They were prepared by Joel Williams, Chief, Territories and Possessions Section, assisted by Mildred Swearngin and Evelynne Gordon. The compilation of the statistics was under the direction of Morton A. Meyer, Chief, Statistical Procedures Section, assisted by Edward I. Lober, and Milton D. Lieberman, Chief, Processing Operations Section, assisted by Juanita A. Wright. The technical editorial work was under the supervision of Mildred M. Russell, assisted by Dorothy M. Belzer. The collection of the information on which these statistics were based was under the supervision of Lowell T. Galt, then Chief, Field Division, and the tabulations were under the supervision of C. F. Van Aken, Chief, Machine Tabulation Division, assisted by Dorothy P. Armstrong.

November 1952.

U. S. CENSUS OF POPULATION: 1950

Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants (comprising Series P-A bulletins)
- II Characteristics of the Population (comprising Series P-A, P-B, and P-C bulletins)
- III Census Tract Statistics (comprising Series P-D bulletins)
- IV Special Reports: Employment Characteristics, Occupational and Industrial Characteristics, Characteristics of Families, Marital Status, Institutional Population, Nativity and Parentage, Nonwhite Population by Race, Persons of Spanish Surname, Puerto Ricans in Continental United States, State of Birth, Mobility of the Population, Characteristics by Size of Place, Education, Fertility.

U. S. CENSUS OF HOUSING: 1950

Volume

- I General Characteristics (comprising Series H-A bulletins)
- II Nonfarm Housing Characteristics (comprising Series H-B bulletins)
- III Farm Housing Characteristics
- IV Residential Financing
- V Block Statistics (comprising Series H-E bulletins)
Housing statistics for census tracts are included in the Population Series P-D bulletins.

General Characteristics

GENERAL

This bulletin presents statistics on the basic characteristics of the population including urban-rural residence, age, sex, race, nativity, citizenship, country of birth, school enrollment, years of school completed, marital status, residence in 1949, employment status, occupation, industry, class of worker, and personal income. More detailed treatment of these subjects and statistics on other subjects covered by the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the population, taken as of April 1, 1950, will be presented in the Series P-C bulletin for Alaska.

The amount of detail presented in this bulletin is generally the same for the Territory as for judicial divisions and urban places, but is less for smaller places. Data from earlier censuses on the subjects treated have been included for the Territory only, however. The smallest areas for which data are shown are places of 1,000 to 2,500 inhabitants.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of the major concepts used in the 1950 Census are given below. Several of these definitions differ from those used in 1939. These changes were made after consultation with users of census data in order to improve the statistics, even though it was recognized that comparability would be adversely affected. In many cases the new definitions were tested in connection with the Current Population Survey; and, where feasible, measures of impact of the change on the statistics were developed.

USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE

In accordance with Census practice dating back to 1790, each person enumerated in the 1950 Census was counted as an inhabitant of his usual place of residence, or usual place of abode, that is, the place where he lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as his legal residence, voting residence, or domicile, although, in the vast majority of cases, the use of these different bases of classification would produce identical results. (See the Series P-A bulletin for a fuller discussion.)

URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENCE

According to the definition that was adopted for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population of Alaska comprises all persons living in places of 2,500 inhabitants or more. According to the new definition that was used in continental United States in 1950, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. No "urban fringes" were delineated for Alaska in 1950 since it had no city of 50,000 or more. If the closely built-up area adjacent to Anchorage city had been described as a fringe, however, it would have

ARRANGEMENT OF TABLES

The first table presented here is table 6; tables 1 to 5 appear in the Series P-A bulletin, "Number of Inhabitants," for Alaska.

AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

This bulletin presents practically all the statistics tabulated for the Territory, judicial divisions, and places of 1,000 or more in the first phase of the 1950 tabulation program. Unpublished statistics can be made available, upon request, for the cost of tabulation and transcription. If enumeration district data are desired, copies of maps showing enumeration district boundaries can also be furnished, usually at nominal cost. Requests for such unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., will receive a prompt reply which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

included essentially three unincorporated places—Eastchester village, Mountain View village, and Spenard village, the first two of which have already been included in the urban population since they have more than 2,500 inhabitants. Hence, the urban definition for Alaska is virtually comparable with that used in the States.

FARM POPULATION

There were 1,712 persons living on farms in Alaska in 1950. The farm population includes all persons living on farms without regard to occupation. Since the farm population, practically all of whom live in rural areas, forms such a relatively small part of the total rural population, no separate data have been tabulated for this segment of the population.

DATA FOR SMALL AREAS

Users of data for the smaller areas should bear in mind that the data for such areas represent the work of a very small number of enumerators (often only one or two). The misinterpretation by an enumerator of the instructions for a particular item may, therefore, have an appreciable effect in the statistics for a very small community, even though it would have a negligible effect upon the figures for a large area.

MEDIANS

The median, a type of average, is presented in connection with the data on age, years of school completed, and personal income which appear in this bulletin. The median is the value which divides the distribution into two equal parts—one-half of the cases falling below this value and one-half of the cases exceeding this value.

RACE AND COLOR

Definitions

The concept of race as it has been used by the Bureau of the Census is derived from that which is commonly accepted by the general public. It does not, therefore, reflect clear-cut definitions

of biological stock and most categories obviously refer to nationalities.

Color.—The term "color" refers to the division of population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Aleuts, Eskimos, Indians, Negroes, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Aboriginal stock.—This classification includes all persons who are Aleut, Eskimo, or Indian.

Other races.—This category includes Negroes, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, etc.

Mixed Parentage

Persons of mixed white and nonwhite parentage are classified according to the race of the nonwhite parent, and mixtures of nonwhite races are classified according to the race of the father.

AGE

Definitions

The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday as of the date of his enumeration, that is, the age of the person in completed years. The enumerator was instructed to obtain the age of each person as of the date of his visit rather than as of April 1, 1950. In most cases the age reported would have been the same on either basis.

Assignment of Unknown Ages

When the age of a person was not reported, it was estimated on the basis of other available information such as marital status, school attendance, employment status, age of other members of the family, and type of household. Age was estimated by this procedure in the 1950 Census for less than 0.1 percent of the population of Alaska. This method of assigning unknown ages on the basis of related information was used for the first time in the 1950 Census of Territories and possessions. In previous censuses, persons of unknown age were shown in a separate category. The summary totals for "14 years and over" and "21 years and over" for earlier censuses presented in this bulletin include all persons of "unknown age" since there is evidence that most of the persons for whom age was not reported were in the age classes above these limits.

Errors in Age Statistics

A considerable body of evidence exists which indicated that age is misreported in several characteristic ways and that certain age groups are less completely enumerated than others in censuses. Since adequate statistics on migration during the decade are lacking for Alaska, a definitive analysis of Alaska age statistics cannot be made. For the United States as a whole, however, there appears to be an underenumeration of children under 5 and of males between the ages of 18 and 24 years. Likewise, there appears to be a deficit of persons in the age range 55 to 64 years, which is roughly offset by an excess over the number expected in the age group 65 years old and over.

NATIVITY

In this bulletin, the population is classified according to place of birth into two basic groups, native and foreign born. A person born in the United States or any of its Territories or possessions is counted as native. Also included as native is the small group of persons who, although born in a foreign country or at sea, were American citizens by birth because their parents were American citizens. Since the Republic of the Philippines was established as an independent country in 1946, persons born in the Philippine Islands were classified as foreign born in the 1950 Census whereas in earlier censuses such persons had been classified as native. The small number of persons for whom place of birth was not reported were assumed to be native.

Because of the declining numerical importance of the foreign-born population, nativity has not been used so extensively for cross-classification in 1950 as in earlier censuses. The distribution of the native and foreign-born white population by age and sex will be presented in the Series P-C bulletin for Alaska.

CITIZENSHIP

The classification of the population by citizenship embraces two major categories, citizen and alien. Citizens are subdivided into native and naturalized. It is assumed that all natives are citizens of the United States. In addition to the citizen and alien categories, there is a third group, made up of foreign-born persons for whom no report on citizenship was obtained, designated "citizenship not reported." Since it is likely that most of these persons are aliens, they are often included with "alien" in summary figures for total aliens. Data on citizenship are shown here only for the population 21 years old and over.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Definitions

The data on school enrollment were derived from answers to the question, "Has he attended school at any time since February 1?" This question was asked of persons under 30 years of age.

"Regular" schools.—In the instructions to the enumerators, enrollment was restricted to enrollment in "regular" schools only. Such schools are public, private, or parochial schools, colleges, universities, or professional schools, either day or night, that is, those schools where enrollment leads to an elementary or high school diploma, or to a college, university, or professional school degree. Enrollment could be full time or part time.

If a person was enrolled in such a school subsequent to February 1, 1950, he was classified as enrolled even if he had not actually attended school since that date. For example, he may not have attended because of illness.

If a person was receiving *regular* instruction at home from a tutor, and if the instruction was considered comparable to that of a regular school or college, the person was counted as enrolled. Enrollment in a correspondence course was counted only if the course was given by a regular school, such as a university, and the person received credit thereby in the regular school system.

Kindergarten.—Children enrolled in kindergarten were reported separately in 1950 and were not counted as enrolled in school. The statistics on kindergarten enrollment were tabulated only for children 5 and 6 years old. Nursery schools were not regarded as kindergartens or schools.

Schools excluded.—Persons enrolled in vocational, trade, or business schools were excluded from the enrollment figures unless such schools were graded and considered a part of a regular school system. Persons receiving on-the-job training in connection with their work were not counted as enrolled in school. Persons receiving training by mail from any source other than that indicated above were not counted as enrolled in school.

Editing of 1950 Data

In 1950, as in prior censuses, persons for whom there was no report as to school enrollment are not shown separately. In both 1939 and 1950, the editing rules were determined largely on the basis of information on ages of compulsory attendance as compiled by the United States Office of Education. In general, persons 5 through 17 years of age not reporting on school enrollment were treated as enrolled, whereas those 18 through 29 years old were considered not enrolled.

Comparability

In 1950, for the first time in a decennial census, kindergarten enrollment was separately identified. In earlier censuses no specific instructions were given about kindergarten and, therefore,

enrollment figures for children 5 and 6 years old undoubtedly included some children enrolled in kindergarten.

College students were enumerated in 1950 at their college residence whereas in previous years they were generally enumerated at their parental home. This change in procedure affected the comparability of 1950 and 1939 figures on school enrollment at college age.

Another factor affecting comparability was the change in the enumeration period. In 1939 the date of the census was October 1, and the question referred to school enrollment in the period from September 1 to the date of enumeration, that is, the beginning of the school term. On the other hand, the 1950 question on school enrollment referred to the period between February 1 and the date of enumeration when the school term was nearing its end. As a result, the proportion enrolled in school in 1950 is lower for children 5 and 6 years old since many children who had recently become of school age were obliged to wait until the next term before enrolling and is lower for persons of working age, some of whom had already dropped out of school.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Definitions

The data on years of school completed 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?" Both questions were asked of persons of all ages. In the present report, these data are shown only for the population 25 years old and over, practically all of whom had completed their formal education.

The questions on educational attainment applied only to progress in "regular" schools, as defined in the section on "School enrollment."

Highest grade of school attended.—The question called for the highest grade attended, regardless of "skipped" or "repeated" grades, rather than the number of full school years which the person had spent in school.

In some areas in the United States, the school system has, or used to have, 7 years of elementary school rather than the more conventional 8 years. For the sake of comparability, persons who had progressed beyond a 7-year elementary school system were treated as though they had progressed beyond the usual 8-year system.

In the case of persons whose highest grade of attendance was in a foreign school system, the instructions were to obtain the approximate equivalent grade in the American school system or, if that was too difficult to determine, the number of years the person had attended school. Persons whose highest level of attendance was in an ungraded school were treated in similar fashion to those from foreign school systems. Persons whose highest level of training was by a tutor and whose training was regarded as qualifying under the "regular" school definition were also given the approximate equivalent in the regular school system.

Did he finish this grade?—The second question on educational attainment referred to the entry on the highest grade attended. It was to be answered "Yes" if the person had completed the full grade. If the person was still attending school in that grade, had completed only a half grade, or had dropped out of or failed to pass the last grade attended, the required answer was "No." Persons of compulsory school age who failed to report on completion of the grade were assumed not to have finished it, but all others not reporting on completion were assumed to have finished the grade.

Comparability With 1939 Census Data

In 1939 a single question was asked on highest grade of school completed. Previous censuses had included one or more inquiries on illiteracy, but none on educational attainment.

Analysis of the 1940 Census returns for continental United States and of other surveys conducted by the Bureau of the Census using the 1940 type of question wording indicated that respondents frequently reported the year or grade in which they were enrolled, or had last been enrolled, instead of the one completed. The 1950 questions were designed to reduce this kind of error.

In the 1950 publications, each category of highest grade of school completed represents the combination of persons (a) who had attended the indicated grade and finished it, and (b) who had attended the next higher grade but had not completed it. As a result of the change in questionnaire design, it seems likely that the 1950 statistics are more nearly accurate than the 1939 statistics in that they contain relatively fewer overstatements.

Median School Years Completed

The median number of school years completed is expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers representing years completed. For example, the completion of the first year of high school is indicated by 9 and of the last year of college by 16.

MARITAL STATUS AND MARRIED COUPLES

Definitions

Marital status.—In the 1950 Census, data on marital status are based on the question, "Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or [has he] never [been] married?" The classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration. Persons classified as "married" comprise, therefore, both those who have been married only once and those who remarried after having been widowed or divorced. Persons reported as separated or in common-law marriages are classified as married. Those with annulled marriages are classified as single.

Differences between the number of married males and the number of married females arise from spouses' having their usual residences in different areas and from errors of response and the processing methods used.

Married couple.—A married couple is defined as a husband and his wife enumerated as members of the same household or quasi household. Married couples are classified as "with own household" if the husband is head of the household. Other married couples, classified as "without own household," may be living in households as relatives of the head or as lodgers or employees, or they may be living in quasi households, such as large rooming houses or hotels.

Comparability With Earlier Census Data

The category "Separated" was included in the question on marital status for the first time in 1950. Previously, the question included the categories single, married, widowed, and divorced. This change may have made the number of persons reported as divorced somewhat smaller in 1950 than it would have been under the earlier procedure.

In 1950, as in previous censuses, marital status was not reported for a small number of persons. For such persons marital status was estimated in 1950 on the basis of age and the presence of spouse or children. In 1939 such persons for whom the status was not apparent from other information on the schedule were classified as single.

HOUSEHOLD AND QUASI HOUSEHOLD

Definitions

Household.—A household includes all the persons who occupy a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a room that constitutes a dwelling unit. In general, a group of rooms occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or a separate entrance; a single room occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or if it constitutes the only living quarters in

the structure. A household includes the related family members and also the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the dwelling unit. A person living alone in a dwelling unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a dwelling unit as partners, is counted as a household.

The count of households excludes groups of persons living as quasi households (see definition below). The average population per household is obtained by dividing the population in households by the number of households.

Quasi household.—Quasi households include all persons living in quarters not classified as dwelling units, for example, in houses with at least five lodgers, or in hotels, institutions, labor camps, or military barracks.

Institutional population.—The institutional population includes those persons living as inmates 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. Staff members and their families are not included in the institutional population.

Comparability With Other Census Data

Minor changes in the instructions for identifying dwelling units in 1950 as compared with 1939 may have affected to a slight extent the increase in households between the two dates. For example, in the 1939 Census, the occupants of a lodginghouse were regarded as a quasi household if the place included 11 or more lodgers; in the 1950 Census the criterion was reduced to 5 or more lodgers. In general, however, the number of households and the number of occupied dwelling units in the 1950 Census may be regarded as comparable with the number of "families," "private households," and occupied dwelling units as shown in the Census reports for 1929 and 1939.

In the 1950 Census, the number of households and the number of occupied dwelling units were identical by definition; small differences between these numbers appear in the published reports, however, because the data for the Population and the Housing reports were processed independently.

In certain Population and Housing reports of the 1939 Census, the average population per household included persons living in quasi households. Such persons were excluded in calculating the average population per household shown in the present bulletin.

Figures on the institutional population included patients in tuberculosis sanitarium in 1950 but not in 1939.

RESIDENCE IN 1949

Residence in 1949 is the usual place of residence one year prior to the date of enumeration. As indicated by the categories of table 13, residence in 1949 was used in conjunction with residence in 1950 to determine the number of persons who had changed residence from 1949 to 1950 in terms of broad areas. This question has been designed primarily to obtain a measure of in-migration to Alaska.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Definition

The statistics on this subject are based on the respondent's answer to the question, "Where was he born?" The classification is based on international boundaries as formally recognized by the United States in April 1950. It is likely, however, that some respondents reported in terms of countries as they existed at an earlier time.

Comparability With Earlier Census Data

In 1939 the classification of the population was based on the political boundaries of January 1, 1937. The 1929 data are based on the political boundaries of that year, which were, in most respects, identical with those of January 1, 1937.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Definitions

Census week.—The 1950 data on employment status pertain to the calendar week preceding the enumerator's visit. This week, defined as the "census week" is not the same for all respondents, because not all persons were enumerated during the same week. The 1939 data refer to a fixed week for all persons, September 24 to 30, 1939, regardless of date of enumeration.

Employed.—Employed persons comprise all civilians 14 years old and over who, during the census week, were either (a) "at work"—those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay on a family farm or in a family 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, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff. Also included as "with a job" are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days. In this bulletin, these two categories are combined and shown as "Employed."

Unemployed.—Persons 14 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they were not at work during the census week but were either looking for work or would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their community or in their line of work. Since no specific questions identifying persons in these last three groups were included on the census schedule, it is likely that some were not returned by the census enumerators as unemployed. Unemployed persons are separated into new workers and experienced workers. When information on the schedule was insufficient for this distinction to be made, the unemployed person was classified as an experienced worker, since the great majority of persons seeking work have had previous work experience.

Labor force.—The labor force includes all persons classified as employed or unemployed as described above, and also members of the armed forces (persons on active duty with the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard). The "civilian labor force" comprises the employed and unemployed components of the labor force.

Not in labor force.—Persons not in the labor force comprise all civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed. Persons not in the labor force are further classified in this report into the following categories:

1. *Keeping house.*—Persons primarily occupied with their own home housework.

2. *Unable to work.*—Persons who cannot work because of long-term physical or mental illness or disability. It is believed, however, that some persons were reported as "unable to work" who were only temporarily ill or who, although elderly, were not permanently disabled.

3. *Inmates of institutions.*—Persons, other than staff members and their families, living in institutions. (See definition of institutional population above.) Staff members of institutions and their families are classified into employment status categories on the same basis as are persons living outside of institutions.

4. *Other and not reported.*—Persons in this general category include the following two groups:

a. Persons not in the labor force other than those keeping house, unable to work, or in institutions. This group includes students, the retired, those too old to work, the voluntarily idle, and seasonal workers for whom the census week fell in an "off" season and who were not reported as unemployed.

b. Persons for whom information on employment status was not reported.

Persons included in the "Other and not reported" category are further classified by broad age groups in order to indicate the

pproximate number in this group who were probably students and the number who were probably retired or too old to work.

Basis for Classification

The employment status classification is based primarily on a series of interrelated "sorter" questions designed to identify, in this sequence: (a) Persons who worked at all during the census week; (b) those who did not work but were looking for work; and (c) those who neither worked nor looked for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent. The four questions used for this purpose are described below:

1. "What was this person doing most of last week—working, keeping house, or something else?" This question was designed to classify persons according to their major activity and to identify the large number of full-time workers. Persons unable to work at all because of physical or mental disabilities were also identified at this point.

2. "Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house?" This question was asked of all persons except those reported in the previous question as working or as unable to work. It was designed to identify persons working part time or intermittently in addition to their major activity.

3. "Was this person looking for work?" Asked of persons replying in the previous question that they did not work at all, this question served to obtain a count of the unemployed.

4. "Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?" Persons temporarily absent from their job or business were identified by means of this question, which was asked of persons neither working nor looking for work.

Problems in Classification

Classification of the population by employment status is always subject to error. Some of the concepts are difficult to apply in practice; but, more important for certain groups, the complete information needed is not always obtained. For example, housewives, students, and semiretired persons, who are in the labor force on only a part-time or intermittent basis, may fail to report that they are employed or looking for work unless carefully questioned. These are the groups for whom variability in response is relatively great in labor force surveys. The problem was probably more pronounced in the census since temporary and relatively inexperienced enumerators were used. In many cases, the enumerators may have assumed that such persons could not be in the labor force and omitted the necessary questions. As a result, they probably understated the size of the labor force and overstated the number of persons not in the labor force.

Comparability

Statistics on gainful workers.—The data on the labor force for 1939 and 1950 are not exactly comparable with the statistics for gainful workers presented in earlier census reports because of differences in definition. "Gainful workers" were persons reported as having a gainful occupation, that is, an occupation in which they earned money or a money equivalent, or in which they assisted in the production of marketable goods, regardless of whether they were working or seeking work at the time of the census. A person was not considered to have a gainful occupation if his work activity was of limited extent. The labor force is defined on the basis of activity during the census week only and includes all persons who were employed, unemployed, or in the armed forces in that week. Certain classes of persons, such as retired workers, some inmates of institutions, recently incapacitated workers, and seasonal workers neither working nor seeking work at the time of the census, were frequently included among the gainful workers; but, in general, such persons are not included in the labor force. On the other hand, the census included in the labor force for 1939 and 1950 persons seeking work without previous work experience, that is, new workers. In earlier censuses such new workers were probably for the most part not reported as gainful workers.

1939 Census data.—During the period 1939 to 1950, various changes were developed in the questionnaires and in interviewing

techniques, designed to obtain a more nearly complete count of the labor force.¹ Although the changes in questionnaire design were incorporated in the 1950 Census schedule and interviewing techniques were stressed in training, the quality of the 1950 statistics does not appear to have been much improved relative to that for 1939 by these measures.

The 1939 data for employed persons in this bulletin vary in some cases from the figures originally published for the Territory. Members of the armed forces living in the Territory in 1939 were originally included among employed persons in the published figures. This approach differs from the 1950 procedure since in 1950 the employed total is limited to civilians, and the difference between the civilian and total labor force represents the armed forces. The appropriate 1939 figures for the employed shown in this report have, therefore, been adjusted to exclude the estimated number of males in the armed forces living in the Territory at that time.

Statistics for persons on public emergency work in 1939 were originally published separately, but in this report they have been combined with those for persons seeking work in the figures on unemployed for 1939.

As noted above, the 1939 statistics pertain to the latter part of September, whereas the 1950 data refer, for the most part, to April. This difference appreciably affects the comparability of the employment status data shown for these two years, in view of the seasonal nature of economic activity in Alaska.

Other data.—Because the 1950 Census employment data were obtained by household interview, they differ from statistics based on reports from individual business establishments, farm enterprises, and certain governmental units. The data based on household interviews provide information about the work status of the whole population, without duplication. Persons employed at more than one job are counted only once as employed and are classified according to the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the census week. Estimates based on reports from business and farm establishments, on the other hand, count more than once persons who work for more than one establishment. Moreover, other estimates, unlike those presented here, generally exclude private household workers, unpaid family workers, and self-employed persons, and may include workers less than 14 years of age. An additional difference arises from the fact that persons with a job but not at work are included with the employed in the statistics shown here, whereas only part of this group is likely to be included in employment figures based on establishment payroll reports. Furthermore, the household reports include persons on the basis of their place of residence regardless of where they work, whereas establishment reports relate persons to their place of work regardless of where they live. Comparisons between the two types of data should be made with caution for areas where a significant number of workers commute to or from other areas.

For a number of reasons, the unemployment figures of the Bureau of the Census are not directly comparable with the published figures for unemployment compensation claims or claims for veterans' readjustment allowances. Certain persons such as private household and government workers are generally not eligible for unemployment compensation. Further, the place where claims are filed may not necessarily be the same as the place of residence of the unemployed worker. In addition, the qualifications for drawing unemployment compensation differ from the definition of unemployment used by the Census Bureau. For example, persons working only a few hours during the week and persons with a job but not at work are sometimes eligible for unemployment compensation but are classified by the Census Bureau as employed.

¹ See U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, "Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in the United States, 1940 to 1946," Series P-50, No. 2, September 1947.

OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORKER

In the 1950 Census of Population, information on occupation, industry, and class of worker was collected for persons in the experienced civilian labor force. All three items related to one specific job held by the person. For an employed person, the information referred to the job he held during the census week. If he was employed at two or more jobs, the job at which he worked the greatest number of hours during the census week was reported. For an experienced unemployed person, the information referred to the last job he had held.

This bulletin presents occupation, industry, and class-of-worker data for employed persons only; occupation and industry data for the experienced unemployed will be obtainable in the Series P-C bulletin.

The classification systems used for the occupation and industry data for Alaska in the 1950 Census of Population are virtually the same as those used for continental United States and are described below. The few changes resulted from the need to set up as separate categories those occupations and industries which include significant numbers of workers in Alaska; but which, in continental United States, are of small numerical importance. The continental United States systems were developed in consultation with many individuals, private organizations, and government agencies, and, in particular, the Joint Committee on Occupational Classification (sponsored by the American Statistical Association and the United States Bureau of the Budget). Information on these classification systems is given in the publication U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population, Classified Index of Occupations and Industries*, Washington, D. C., 1950. Information on the adaptation of these classification systems for Alaska can be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

Occupation

The occupation information presented here was derived from answers to the question, "What kind of work was he doing?"

Classification system.—The occupational classification system developed for the 1950 Census of Population of Alaska consists of 496 items, 274 of which are specific occupation categories; the remainder are groupings (mainly on the basis of industry) of 13 of the occupation categories. The 496 detailed items are classified into 12 major occupation groups, which form the basis on which the occupation data are presented in this bulletin. Statistics for the detailed categories will appear in the Series P-C bulletin.

The composition of the major occupation groups (except the "not reported" group) is indicated in the illustrative list which follows:

Professional, technical, and kindred workers.—Includes Accountants; Actors; Airplane pilots and navigators; Architects; Artists; Athletes; Auditors; Authors; Chemists; Chiropractors; Clergymen; College presidents, professors, and instructors; Conservationists; Dancers; Dentists; Designers; Dietitians; Draftsmen; Editors; Embalmers; Entertainers; Farm management advisors; Foresters; Funeral directors; Healers; Home management advisors; Judges; Lawyers; Librarians; Musicians; Natural scientists; Nutritionists; Optometrists; Osteopaths; Personnel workers; Pharmacists; Photographers; Physicians; Professional nurses; Radio operators; Recreation workers; Religious workers; Reporters; Social scientists; Social workers; Sports instructors and officials; Student professional nurses; Surgeons; Surveyors; Teachers; Technical engineers; Therapists; Veterinarians.

Farmers and farm managers.—Includes tenant farmers and share croppers.

Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm.—Includes Buyers; Building superintendents; Credit men; Lodge officials; Postmasters; Public administration officials; Purchasing agents; Railroad conductors; Ship officers, pilots, pursers, and engineers; Shippers of farm products; Union officials.

Clerical and kindred workers.—Includes Bank tellers; Bill and account collectors; Bookkeepers; Cashiers; Dentist's office attendants; Express agents; Express messengers; Library assistants and attendants; Mail carriers; Messengers; Office boys;

Office machine operators; Physician's office attendants; Railway mail clerks; Receiving clerks; Secretaries; Shipping clerks; Station agents; Stenographers; Telegraph messengers; Telegraph operators; Telephone operators; Ticket agents; Typists.

Sales workers.—Includes Advertising agents and salesmen; Auctioneers; Demonstrators; Hucksters; Insurance agents and brokers; Newsboys; Peddlers; Real estate agents and brokers; Stock and bond salesmen.

Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.—Includes Annealers; Bakers; Blacksmiths; Boilermakers; Bookbinders; Brickmasons; Cabinetmakers; Carpenters; Cement finishers; Compositors; Concrete finishers; Coppermiths; Cranemen; Derrickmen; Die makers; Die setters; Electricians; Electrotypers; Engravers; Excavating machinery operators; Forgemen; Glaziers; Goldsmiths; Grading machinery operators; Heat treaters; Hoistmen; Lens grinders and polishers; Lithographers; Locomotive engineers; Locomotive firemen; Log and lumber scalers and graders; Loom fixers; Machinists; Mechanics; Metal molders; Metal rollers; Metal roll hands; Millers; Millwrights; Motion picture projectionists; Opticians; Organ tuners; Painters (construction and maintenance); Paperhangers; Photoengravers; Piano tuners; Pipe fitters; Plasterers; Plate printers; Plumbers; Power linemen and servicemen; Printing pressmen; Road machinery operators; Roofers; Sheet metal workers; Shoemakers, except in factories; Silversmiths; Slaters; Stationary engineers; Stereotypers; Stone carvers; Stone cutters; Stonemasons; Structural metal workers; Tailors; Telegraph and telephone linemen and servicemen; Tile setters; Tinsmiths; Tool makers; Typesetters; Upholsterers; Watchmakers; Window dressers.

Operatives and kindred workers.—Includes Apprentices; Asbestos workers; Auto service attendants; Basket weavers; Blasters; Boatmen; Bus conductors and drivers; Canalmen; Chauffeurs; Deck hands; Deliverymen; Dressmakers; Dry cleaning operatives; Dyers; Fruit, nut and vegetable graders and packers; Furnacemen; Hunters and trappers; Insulation workers; Ivory carvers; Laundry operatives; Meat cutters; Metal filers, grinders, and polishers; Metal heaters; Milliners; Mine operatives and laborers; Motormen; Painters (except construction and maintenance); Parking lot attendants; Photographic process workers; Powdermen; Power station operators; Railroad brakemen and switchmen; Routemen; Sailors; Sawyers; Seamstresses; Skin and fur tanners and sewers; Smeltermen; Stationary firemen; Street railway conductors; Surveying chainmen, rodmen, and axmen; Taxicab drivers; Textile spinners; Textile weavers; Tractor drivers; Truck drivers; Welders.

Private household workers.—Includes housekeepers and laundresses in private households.

Service workers, except private household.—Includes Attendants and ushers in amusement places; Bailiffs; Barbers; Bartenders; Beauticians; Boarding house keepers; Bootblacks; Bridge tenders; Charwomen; Cooks, except in private households; Detectives; Doorkeepers; Elevator operators; Firemen (fire protection); Fountain workers; Guards; Hospital attendants; Janitors; Lodginghouse keepers; Manicurists; Marshals; Midwives; Policemen; Porters; Practical nurses; Sextons; Sheriffs; Stewards; Waiters; Watchmen.

Farm laborers and foremen.—Includes both paid and unpaid family farm laborers, and self-employed farm service laborers.

Laborers, except farm and mine.—Includes Car washers; Fishermen; Garage laborers; Groundskeepers; Longshoremen; Oystermen; Raftsmen; Stevedores; Teamsters; Woodchoppers.

Relation to DOT classification.—The Population Census occupational classification is generally comparable with the system used in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (DOT).² The two systems, however, are designed to meet different needs and to be used under different circumstances. The DOT system is much more detailed than the Bureau of the Census system, and it also calls for many types of distinctions which cannot be met by Census information.

Industry

The industry information presented here was derived from answers to the question, "What kind of business or industry was he working in?"

Classification system.—The industrial classification system developed for the 1950 Census of Population of Alaska consists of

² See U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, Second Edition, Vols. I and II, Washington, D. C., 1949.

150 categories, classified into the 13 major industry groups used in this bulletin. In addition, this bulletin includes statistics based on a condensed classification of 31 industry groups; the condensed classification represents selections and combinations of categories in the detailed 150-item system. Statistics for the detailed categories will appear in the Series P-C bulletin.

The following list shows the 13 major industry groups and the 31 condensed industry groups. For each group whose title may not adequately indicate the inclusion of certain important components, a listing of such selected components is given. The numbers in parentheses shown in this list after each of the group titles are code designations of the Standard Industrial Classification,³ see paragraph below on "Relation to Standard Industrial Classification."

- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries* (incl. hunting) (01, 07 except 0713, 08, 09)
1. Agriculture, except hunting and trapping (01, 071 except 0713, 072, 073)
 2. Hunting and trapping (074)
 3. Forestry (08)
 4. Fisheries (09)
- Mining* (10-14)
5. Gold and silver mining (104)
 6. Mining, except gold and silver (10 except 104, 11-14). Includes quarrying, and crude petroleum and natural gas extraction.
7. *Construction* (15-17)
- Manufacturing* (0713, 19-39)
8. Durable goods (19, 24, 25, 32-39). Includes furniture, and lumber and wood products; metal industries; machinery; transportation equipment; stone, clay, and glass products; professional and photographic equipment, and watches and clocks.
 9. Nondurable goods (0713, 20-23, 26-31). Includes food and kindred products; tobacco manufactures; textile mill products; apparel and other fabricated textile products; paper and allied products; printing, publishing, and allied industries; chemicals and allied products; petroleum and coal products; rubber products; and leather and leather products.
 10. Not specified manufacturing industries.⁴
- Transportation, Communication, and Other Public Utilities* (40-49)
11. Railroads and railway express service (40)
 12. Transportation, except railroad (41-47). Includes trucking service and warehousing; taxicab service; petroleum and gasoline pipe lines.
 13. Telecommunications (48). Includes telephone and telegraph, both wire and radio.
 14. Utilities and sanitary services (49). Includes electric, gas, steam, and water supply.
- Wholesale and Retail Trade* (50-59)
15. Wholesale trade (50, 51)
 16. Retail trade (52-59)
 17. Food and dairy products stores, and milk retailing (54)
 18. Eating and drinking places (58)
 19. Other retail trade (52, 53, 55-57, 59)
- Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate* (60-67). Includes banks, credit agencies, and investment companies.
20. *Business and Repair Services* (73, 75, 76). Includes advertising, accounting, auditing, and bookkeeping services; and automobile repair services and garages.
- Personal Services* (70, 72, 88)
21. Private households (88)
 22. Hotels and lodging places (70)
 23. Other personal services (72). Includes dressmaking and shoe repair shops; laundering, cleaning, and dyeing services.
 24. *Entertainment and Recreation Services* (77-79). Includes radio broadcasting, television, theaters, motion pictures, bowling alleys, and billiard parlors.

³ See Executive Office of the President, Bureau of the Budget, *Standard Industrial Classification Manual*, Vol. 1, *Manufacturing Industries*, Part 1 (November 1945 edition); and Vol. II, *Nonmanufacturing Industries* (May 1949 edition).

⁴ In the Population Census system, separate "not specified" categories were set up within certain groups to take care of schedule returns which were not sufficiently precise for allocation to a specific category within the group.

- Professional and Related Services* (80-82, 84, 86, 89)
25. Medical and other health services (80)
 26. Educational services (82, 84)
 27. Other professional and related services (81, 86, 89). Includes welfare, religious, and membership organizations; legal, engineering, and miscellaneous professional services.
- Public Administration* (90)⁵
28. Postal service
 29. Federal public administration
 30. Territorial and local public administration
 31. *Industry Not Reported* (99)

Relation to Standard Industrial Classification.—The list presented in the preceding paragraph shows for each Population Census group the code designation of the similar group or groups in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). This relationship is presented here for general information purposes only and does not imply complete comparability. The SIC, which was developed under the sponsorship of the United States Bureau of the Budget, is designed for the classification of industry reports from establishments. These reports are, by their nature and degree of detail, considerably different from industry reports obtained from household enumerations such as the Population Census. As a result, many distinctions called for in the SIC cannot be observed in the Population Census. Furthermore, the needs which the Population Census data are designed to meet frequently differ from the needs which the establishment data meet.

The allocation of government workers represents perhaps the most basic difference between the two systems. The SIC classifies all government agencies in a single major group. In the Population Census system, however, the category "Public administration" includes only those activities which are uniquely governmental functions, such as legislative and judicial activities and most of the activities in the executive agencies. Government agencies engaged in educational and medical services and in activities commonly carried on also by private enterprises, such as transportation and manufacturing, are classified in the appropriate industrial category. For example, persons employed by a hospital are classified in the medical service group, regardless of whether they are paid from private or public funds. Information on the total number of government workers appears in the tables on class of worker. Data on industry by class of worker will appear in the Series P-C bulletin.

Relation to certain occupation groups.—In the Population Census classification systems, the industry category "Agriculture, except hunting and trapping" is somewhat more inclusive than the total of the two major occupation groups, "Farmers and farm managers" and "Farm laborers and foremen." The industry category includes, in addition to all persons in these two major occupation groups, (a) persons employed on farms in occupations such as truck driver, mechanic, and bookkeeper, and (b) persons engaged in agricultural activities other than strictly farm operation, such as crop spraying and landscape gardening. Similarly, the industry category "Private households" is somewhat more inclusive than the major occupation group "Private household workers." In addition to the housekeepers, laundresses, and miscellaneous types of domestic workers covered by the major occupation group, the industry category includes persons in occupations such as chauffeur, gardener, and secretary, if they are employed by private families.

Class of Worker

The class-of-worker information, as noted above, refers to the same job as does the occupation and industry information. The allocation of a person to a particular class-of-worker category is basically independent, however, of the occupation or industry in

⁵ See text for explanation of basic difference between SIC and Population Census in classification of government workers.

which he worked. The classification by class of worker consists of four categories which are defined as follows:

1. *Private wage and salary workers.*—Persons who worked for a private employer for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay-in-kind, or at piece rates.

2. *Government workers.*—Persons who worked for any governmental unit (Federal, Territorial, or local), regardless of the activity which the particular agency carried on.

3. *Self-employed workers.*—Persons who worked for profit or fees in their own business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm either as an owner or tenant. Included here are the owner-operators of large stores and manufacturing establishments as well as small merchants, independent craftsmen and professional men, farmers, peddlers, and other persons who conducted enterprises of their own. Persons paid to manage businesses or farms owned by other persons or by corporations, on the other hand, are classified as private wage and salary workers (or, in some few cases, as government workers).

4. *Unpaid family workers.*—Persons who worked without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

The relatively small number of employed persons for whom class of worker was not reported has been included among private wage and salary workers unless there was evidence on the census schedule that they should have been classified in one of the other class-of-worker categories.

Quality of Data

The omission from the labor force of some workers (mainly youths, women, and part-time workers), as explained in the section on "Employment status," has probably resulted in an understatement in many of the occupation, industry, and class-of-worker figures. Another factor to be considered in the interpretation of these data is that enumerators sometimes returned occupation and industry designations which were not sufficiently specific for precise allocation; in many such cases, however, satisfactory assignment was made through the use of supplementary information. The basic document used in the allocation of the schedule returns of occupation and industry to the appropriate categories of the classification systems is the publication, U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population, Alphabetical Index of Occupations and Industries*, Washington, D. C., 1950.

Comparability

Earlier census data.—The changes in schedule design and interviewing techniques for the labor force questions, as explained in the section on "Employment status," probably have little effect on comparability between 1939 and 1950 for the several occupation and industry categories. Comparability may be seriously affected, however, for those occupations and industries with significant numbers of seasonal workers by the fact that the 1939 data refer to the latter part of September, whereas the 1950 data refer, for the most part, to April. In regard to the occupational and industrial classifications, the systems used in 1939 are basically the same as those of 1950, although there are a number of differences in the specific content of particular groups, as well as several differences in titles.

The 1939 data on occupation and industry shown in this bulletin have been revised to eliminate members of the armed forces. In the occupation tables of the 1939 report, the armed forces were mainly included in the major group "Service workers, except domestic." In the industry tables, the armed forces were all included in the major group "Government." Revisions have also been made in the 1939 occupation and industry data to take account of the differences between the 1939 and 1950 classification systems. Because of the difficulty of obtaining complete information on which to base such adjustments (as well as the seasonal factor mentioned above), the 1939 data should not be considered as precisely comparable with the 1950 data.

The occupation data shown in the reports prior to 1939 are not entirely comparable with the 1950 data presented here. One element of incomparability is the difference in defining the economically active population, as explained in the section on "Employment status." Another element of incomparability is the difference in classification systems. Although the data necessary to adjust for the classification changes are mostly unavailable, some further information can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of the Census.

Other data.—Comparability between the statistics presented in this bulletin and statistics from other sources is frequently affected by the use of different classification systems, as well as by many of the factors described in the paragraph on comparability with other employment data in the section on "Employment status."

INCOME

Definitions

Components of income.—Income, as defined in the 1950 Census, is the sum of the money received, less losses, from the following sources: wages or salary; net income (or loss) from the operation of a farm, ranch, business, or profession; net income (or loss) from rents, or receipts from roomers or boarders; royalties; interest, dividends, and periodic income from estates and trust funds; pensions; veterans' payments, armed-forces allotments for dependents, and other governmental payments or assistance; and other income such as contributions for support from persons who are not members of the household, alimony, and periodic receipts from insurance policies or annuities. The figures in this report represent the amount of income received before deductions for personal income taxes, social security, bond purchases, union dues, etc.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: money received from the sale of property, unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property; the value of income "in kind," such as food produced and consumed in the home; free living quarters; withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts; and lump-sum inheritance or insurance payments.

This bulletin presents information on the personal income of all persons 14 years of age and over.

Source of the Income Data

In the 1950 Census, information was requested of persons 14 years of age and over on the following income categories: (a) The amount of money wages or salary received in 1949; (b) the amount of net money income received from self-employment in 1949; and (c) the amount of other money income received in 1949, e. g., interest, dividends, veterans' allowances, pensions, or rents.

Limitations of the Income Data

The figures in this survey, as in all field surveys of income, are subject to errors of response and nonreporting. In most cases the schedule entries for income are based not on records but on memory, usually that of the housewife. The memory factor in data derived from field surveys of income probably produces underestimates, because of the tendency to forget minor or irregular sources of income. Other errors of reporting are due to misunderstanding of the income questions or to misrepresentation.

Comparability

Income tax data.—The income data shown here are not directly comparable with statistical summaries of income tax returns. Income as defined for tax purposes differs somewhat from the Census concept. Moreover, the coverage of tax statistics is less inclusive because of exemptions of persons with small incomes. Furthermore, some tax returns are filed as joint returns; and consequently, the income reporting unit is not consistently either a family or a person.