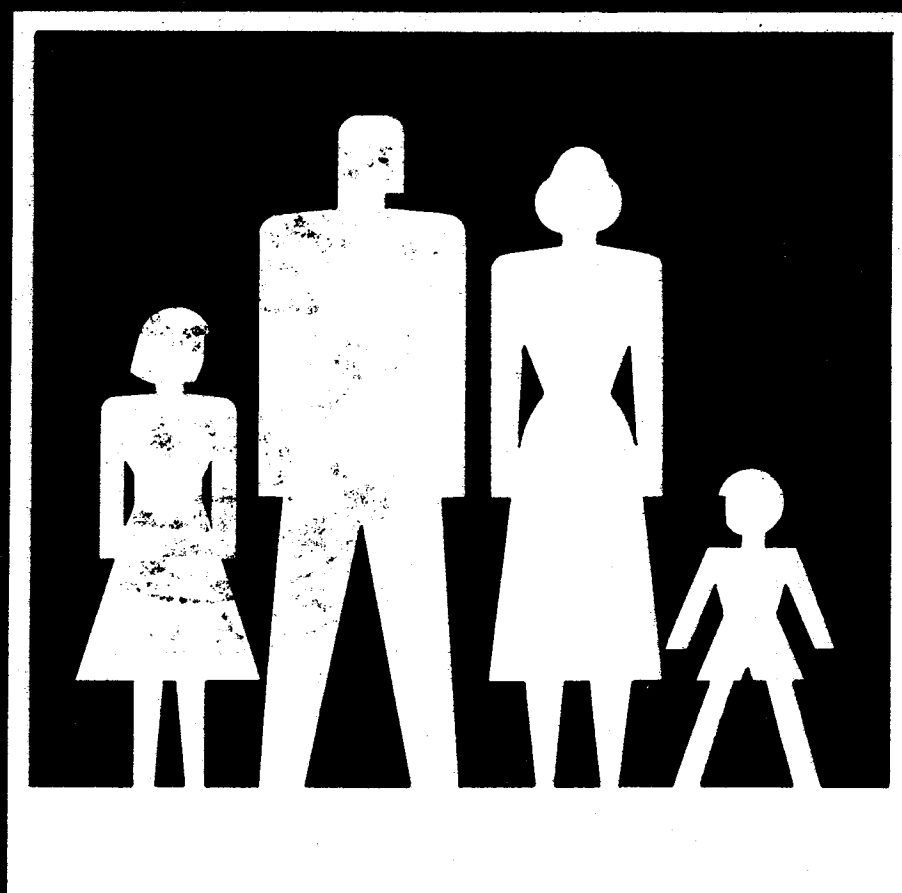


BULLETIN
P-C51

1950 UNITED STATES CENSUS OF POPULATION

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



ALASKA

DETAILED
CHARACTERISTICS

UNITED STATES CENSUS of POPULATION : 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
CHARLES SAWYER, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ROY V. PEEL, Director

Alaska
Dev. Bureau



DETAILED CHARACTERISTICS

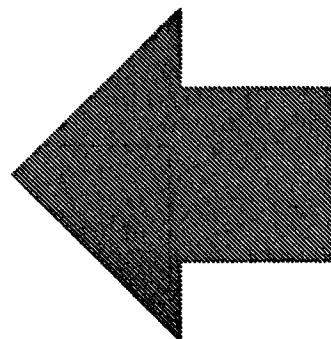
ALASKA

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

1950 POPULATION CENSUS REPORT P-C51
PREPRINT OF VOLUME II, PART 51, CHAPTER C
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1952

Detailed data for large areas on

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





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PREFACE

This bulletin presents statistics on the detailed characteristics of the population of Alaska and its urban and rural 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.

December 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)

Succeeding volumes will cover the following subjects:

Nativity and Parentage, Nonwhite Population by Race, Persons of Spanish Surname, Institutional Population, Labor Force Characteristics, Occupation, Industry, Income, Internal Migration, Education, Characteristics of Families and Households.

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 Population Series P-D bulletins.

Detailed Characteristics

GENERAL

This bulletin presents detailed categories and cross-classification of some of the characteristics of the population. The statistics include cross-classification of age with race, nativity, citizenship, marital status, relationship to household head, education, residence in 1949, and employment status; the occupational and industrial attachments of the labor force; and personal income.

Statistics on the general characteristics of the population for the Territory, judicial divisions, and places having 1,000 inhabitants or more, have been published in the Series P-B bulletin. Because of the amount of detail and cross-classification in the tables, the presentation in this bulletin is restricted to the Territory, urban and rural.

The differences between figures for corresponding items in different tables and reports are caused by errors in the tabulation processes. These errors include machine failure, loss of punch cards, and other types. (The net effect is a tendency toward slightly smaller counts of the same item in successive tabulations.) Experience has shown that in mass operations two tabulations of a set of punch cards are not likely to yield precisely identical results. Therefore, tolerance limits allowing for insignificant variations were established in advance for each tabulation. If the differences between the results of two tabulations fell within these limits, nothing was done to bring them into exact agreement with each other. This procedure was adopted in order to provide

a greater volume of data within the limits of time and resources available. In earlier censuses, however, the results of different tabulations were adjusted to bring them into exact agreement.

The first table presented here is table 28; tables 1 to 5 appear in the Series P-A bulletin, "Number of Inhabitants," for Alaska; tables 6 through 27 appear in the Series P-B bulletin, "General Characteristics."

PUBLISHED DATA FOR NONWHITE POPULATION

Statistics on race, marital status, school enrollment, years of school completed, residence in 1949, employment status, and occupation are presented by age for the nonwhite population of the Territory. In addition, persons of aboriginal stock are classified by age, race, and sex.

AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED DATA

Some of the statistics that were tabulated in this program are not being published; for example, statistics on year of school in which enrolled and years of school completed, by color, for urban and rural areas. These data can be made available for the cost of transcription and consolidation. Requests for information relative to specific unpublished data should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of the pertinent concepts used in the 1950 Census are given below. Several of these 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 the impact of the change on the statistics were developed.

USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE

In accordance with the 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.) College students were enumerated in 1950 as residents of the communities in which they were residing while attending college, whereas in 1939, as in most previous censuses, they were generally enumerated at their parental homes. This change in procedure affects the comparability of the 1950 and 1939 figures on education of persons of college age. Comparability of other statistics for this age group may also be affected slightly.

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. The remaining population is classified as rural. 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 included 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.

MEDIANS

Medians are 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 distributions 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 several categories obviously refer to nationalities. 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.

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, and other nonwhite races.

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 for the Territories and possessions in the 1950 Census. In previous censuses, persons of unknown age were shown in a separate category.

Errors in Age Statistics

A considerable body of evidence exists which indicates 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 Alaskan age statistics cannot be made. For the United States as a whole, however, there appears to be an underenumeration of the children under 5 of approximately 4.4 percent (provisional) as compared with about 7.6 percent in 1940. Males between the ages of 18 and 24 also appear to have been relatively underenumerated. Likewise, there appears to be a deficit of persons in the age range 55 to 64 years.

In addition to errors in the statistics for broad age groups arising from underenumeration and the misstatement of age, there is a tendency to report age in multiples of 5. This tendency is apparent in statistics for single years of age in which the frequencies for single years ending in 0 and 5 are frequently greater than those for the two adjoining years. This type of misreporting presumably occurs in situations in which the respondent, in the absence of specific knowledge as to his exact age or the age of the person for whom he is reporting, gives an approximate figure. The returns also exaggerate the number of centenarians,

particularly among nonwhites. In general, the degree of inaccuracy in reported ages is greater for adults than for children.

NATIVITY

In this bulletin, the white 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 who had been 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.

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."

MARITAL STATUS

Definitions

In the 1950 Census, data on marital status are based on the replies to 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 in common-law marriages are classified as married. Those with annulled marriages are classified as single. Since it is probable that some divorced persons are reported as single, married, or widowed, the census returns doubtless understate somewhat the actual number of divorced persons who have not remarried.

The category "Married" is further divided into "married, spouse present" and "married, spouse absent." A person is classified as "married, spouse present" if the person's husband or wife was reported as a member of the household or quasi household in which the person was enumerated, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. The number of married men with wife present classified as heads of households is the same as the number of wives of heads of households shown in the tables on relationship to head of household, except for differences arising from methods used in processing the data. The number shown as not head of household is the same as the number of married couples without own household shown in Series P-B tables, except for differences arising from processing methods used.

Persons reported as separated are included in the larger group designated as "married, spouse absent." Separated persons include those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other married persons permanently or temporarily estranged from their spouse because of marital discord. The group "Other married, spouse absent" includes married persons employed and living for several months at a considerable distance from their homes, those whose spouse was absent in the armed forces, in-migrants whose spouse remained in another area, husbands or wives of inmates of institutions, and

all other married persons (except those reported as separated) whose place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse.

Differences between the number of married men and the number of married women arise from spouses having their usual residences in different areas, from the relative completeness of enumeration of men and women, and from errors of response and the processing methods used.

Comparability

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 previous censuses all persons for whom marital status was not reported were classified as single.

RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF 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.

Quasi household.—A quasi household is a group of persons living in quarters not classified as a dwelling unit. In the tables, inmates of institutions (see also subsection on "Inmates of institutions" on page ix) are distinguished from persons living in other quasi households, such as lodging houses having at least five lodgers, hotels, labor camps, or military barracks. The number of heads of quasi households also represents the number of quasi households.

Head of household.—One person in each household is designated as the "head." The number of heads, therefore, is equal to the number of households. The head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the household. Married women are not classified as heads if their husbands are living with them at the time of the census.

Wife.—The total number of females shown under the heading "Wife" is ordinarily somewhat less than the total number of married women with husband present, since the category "Wife" in the relationship tables includes only wives of heads of households. As indicated in the section on "Marital status," the number of "wives" is directly comparable with data in the marital status tables on the number of married men with wife present who are heads of households. Either of these figures may be used to indicate the number of "husband-wife households."

Child.—This category includes sons and daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children of the head regardless of their age or marital status. It excludes sons-in-law and daughters-in-law and, of course, any children of the head no longer living in the household.

Grandchild.—This category comprises all persons living in the household who are sons, daughters, stepchildren, or adopted children of a child of the head.

Parent.—This classification comprises both parents and parents-in-law of the head if living in the household.

Other relative.—This class includes such relatives of the head as sons-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, brothers, aunts, grandparents, cousins, and great-grandchildren, if these are members of the household.

Lodger.—All persons in households who are not related to the head, except resident employees and their families, are counted as lodgers. Among these persons are lodgers, roomers, and boarders, and their relatives residing in the same household. Also included are partners, foster children, and wards.

Resident employee.—This category consists of all employees of the head of the household who usually reside in the household with their employer, and their relatives residing in the same household. The main types of such employees are cooks, maids, nurses, and hired farm hands.

Comparability

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 lodgers or more; in the 1950 Census the criterion was reduced to 5 lodgers or more. This change had a relatively insignificant effect on the number of households but probably doubled the number of quasi households for many areas. In general, the number of households and the number of occupied dwelling units in the 1950 Census may be regarded as comparable with the number of 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.

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 defined as 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 enrolled in correspondence courses other than those described 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. Additional information used included other items on the schedule. 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

1939 Census data.—The corresponding question in the 1939 Census referred to the period between September 1 and October 1, 1939. In order to insure more complete comparability among areas in 1950, it was considered advisable to increase the reference period to that between February 1 and the time of enumeration.

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.

As mentioned in the section on "Usual place of residence," college students were enumerated in 1950 at their college residence whereas in previous years they were generally enumerated at their parental home.

Data from school systems.—Data on school enrollment are also collected and published by other governmental agencies. These data are obtained from reports of school systems and institutions of higher learning and are only roughly comparable with the enrollment data collected by the Bureau of the Census by household interviews. For comparable grades, the census enrollment figures tend to be lower largely because they refer to shorter time periods and do not contain certain duplications that are found in reports from the various school systems.

YEAR OF SCHOOL IN WHICH ENROLLED AND YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Definitions

The data on year of school in which enrolled were derived from the answers to the first of the following two questions, and those on years of school completed from the combination of answers to both questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?" and (b) "Did he finish this grade?"

The questions on educational attainment applied only to progress in "regular" schools, 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 enumerators were instructed to obtain the approximate equivalent grade in the American school system or, if that were 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. Junior high school grades were translated into their elementary or high school equivalents. 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.

Completion of highest grade.—The second question on educational attainment 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." In the case of persons who failed to report on completion of the grade, those classified as enrolled were assumed not to have finished and the others were assumed to have finished.

Comparability

In the present report, the year of school in which enrolled is shown for enrolled persons 5 to 29 years old, and the years of school completed are shown for all persons 5 years old and over.

For 1950, statistics on educational attainment for persons enrolled in school are shown in terms of the school year in which they were enrolled, whereas in the 1939 report statistics were shown in terms of the highest grade they had completed. The present procedure was adopted because it provides statistics in a form that should be generally more useful to those interested in school systems. Generally, for persons enrolled in school, the grade in which they are enrolled is one grade higher than the highest grade completed.

In the 1940 Census, a single question was asked on highest grade of school completed. Analysis of data from the census returns and from 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 (a) persons who had gone only as far as the indicated grade which they had finished, and (b) persons who had attended the next higher grade but had not completed it. Data from a preliminary sample of the 1950 Census for persons of elementary and high school ages in continental United States show larger proportions in 1950 than in 1940 in both the modal grade and the next lower grade for a particular age, and smaller proportions in each of the first two grades above the mode. It seems reasonable to assume that, as a result of the change in questionnaire design, there was relatively less exaggeration in educational attainment in 1950 than in 1940, even for older persons. In the 1939 report, data on highest grade of school completed were published only for persons 25 years old and over.

Median School Years

Median educational attainment, either in terms of the median year of school in which enrolled or median school years completed, is expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers. For example, the second year of high school is indicated by 10, and the third year of college by 15. For the sake of comparability, the first year of high school is uniformly represented by 9, although, as previously noted, there are some areas with only 7 years of elementary school.

The procedure used in both 1950 and 1939 for calculating the median years of school completed makes allowance for the fact that many persons reported as having completed a given full school year have also completed a part of the next higher grade. Specifically, it is assumed, for example, that persons who reported six full years of school completed had actually completed 6.5 grades. Actually, at the time of enumeration, persons enrolled in school had probably completed somewhat more than one-half grade beyond their last full year, on the average, whereas persons who had left school had probably completed less than one-half year

beyond their last full year, on the average. A similar procedure was followed in the computation of the median school year in which enrolled.

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 in table 40, 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.

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 majority of the population was enumerated by the end of April. 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.

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 persons in these groups 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. The "experienced labor force" consists of the armed forces, employed workers, and experienced unemployed workers. The "experienced civilian labor force" comprises the two latter groups.

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 a long-term physical or mental illness or disability. There is evidence, 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 employees and their families, living in institutions, such as homes for the mentally or physically handicapped, places providing specialized medical care, homes for the aged, prisons, and jails. Employees 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. It is estimated that employment status was not reported for approximately 1.2 million persons in continental United States, or about 1 percent of the total United States population 14 years old and over. Approximately 45 percent of this group might have been added to the labor force had the necessary information been obtained.

Problems in 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. (See the Series P-B bulletin for fuller discussion.)

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. In many cases, enumerators may assume that such persons could not be in the labor force and will omit the necessary questions. As a result, the statistics will understate the size of the labor force and overstate the number of persons not in the labor force.

Comparability

1939 Census data.—During the period 1939 to 1950, various improvements 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 into the 1950 Census schedule, and interviewing techniques were stressed in training, preliminary data indicate that the 1950 statistics were not much affected by these measures.

Members of the armed forces were included among employed persons in the 1939 Census reports but were treated as a separate category of the labor force in the 1950 Census reports.

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. In statistics based on reports from business and farm establishments, on the other hand, persons who work for more than one establishment may be counted more than once. Moreover, other data, unlike those presented here, generally exclude private household workers, unpaid family workers, and self-employed persons, and may

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, Sept. 1947.

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. The two types of data may not be comparable 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. (See the Series P-B bulletin for a fuller discussion.)

WEEKS WORKED IN 1949

The statistics on weeks worked are based on replies to the question, "Last year, in how many weeks did this person do any work at all, not counting work around the house?" The data pertain to the number of different weeks during 1949 in which a person did any work for pay or profit (including paid vacations and sick leave) or worked without pay on a family farm or in a family business. Weeks of active service in the armed forces are also included. It is probable that the number of persons who worked in 1949 is understated, because there is some tendency for respondents to forget intermittent or short periods of employment.

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.

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 subgroupings (mainly on the basis of industry) of 13 of the occupation categories. For purposes of this bulletin,

certain of the occupation categories were combined, and the detailed occupation list presented here consists of 455 items (table 46). The composition of each of the detailed categories is shown in the publication, U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population, Classified Index of Occupations and Industries*, Washington, D. C., 1950.

In the cross-classification of occupation by age, race, class of worker, and income, intermediate occupational classifications of 92 items for males and 40 items for females have been used (tables 47 to 49). These intermediate classifications represent selections and combinations of the items in the detailed system. A listing of the relationship between the two levels of classification can be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

The abbreviation "n.e.c." used in the tables on occupation means "not elsewhere classified." In the separation of "managers, officials, and proprietors (n.e.c.);" by class of worker into salaried and self-employed components, the small number of unpaid family workers in this occupation group is included in the self-employed component.

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 150 categories. For purposes of this bulletin, a few categories were combined, and the detailed industry list presented here consists of 148 categories (table 50). The composition of each of the detailed categories is shown in the publication, U. S. Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population, Classified Index of Occupations and Industries*, Washington, D. C., 1950.

In the cross-classifications of industry by age, race, class of worker, major occupation group, weeks worked, and income, an intermediate industrial classification of 56 categories has been used (tables 51 to 55). This intermediate classification represents selections and combinations of the categories in the detailed system. A listing of the relationships between the two levels of classification can be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

Relation to Standard Industrial Classification.—The Population Census industrial classification is generally comparable with the Standard Industrial Classification.³ There are, however, certain basic differences between the two systems resulting from the fact that they are designed for the classification of reports from household and establishment enumerations, respectively. (See Series P-B bulletin for fuller discussion.) A listing of the relationships between the Population Census and Standard Industrial Classification categories can be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

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

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.

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

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 households.

Definition of "Public administration."—The major group "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 "hospitals" category, regardless of whether they are paid from private or public funds. The total number of government workers is presented here in the data on class of worker. Of particular significance in this connection is the cross-classification of industry by class of worker (table 51).

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 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.

Although the number of misclassifications probably does not have any serious effect on the usefulness of most of the data, there are a few cases where relatively small numbers of erroneous returns may produce what might be regarded as a serious misstatement of the facts. These cases relate mainly to the numbers of women and children shown in occupations which are unusual for such persons, and to the government workers shown in industries that are ordinarily not carried on by government agencies. Some of the more obvious misclassifications have been adjusted, but it was not possible to perform a complete review of the data for small discrepancies.

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 Series P-B bulletin for Alaska presents 1939 occupation and industry data for employed persons, adjusted to achieve comparability with the 1950 classification systems and to eliminate members of the armed forces who were included among employed persons in 1939.

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 money received from wages or salaries, net income (or loss) from self-employment, and income other than earnings. 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 or free living quarters; withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts and lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

Information was requested of all persons 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. Specific definitions of these three categories are as follows:

1. *Wages or salary.*—This is defined as the total money earnings received for work performed as an employee. It includes wages, salary, armed forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned.

2. *Self-employment income.*—This is defined as net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from a business, farm, or professional enterprise in which the person was engaged on his own account or as an unincorporated employer. Gross receipts include the value of all goods sold and services rendered. Expenses include the cost of goods purchased, rent, heat, light, power, depreciation charges, wages and salaries paid, business taxes, etc.

3. *Income other than earnings.*—This includes money income received from sources other than wages or salary and self-employment, such as 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.

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

Quality of the Income Data

The figures in this census, 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 the tendency is to forget minor or irregular sources of income. Other errors of reporting are due to misunderstanding of the income questions or misrepresentation.

Although the 1950 Census income data are subject to these limitations for continental United States, they appear to be of about the same quality as those obtained from the Current Population Survey, which has provided a consistent series of national estimates of the distribution of consumer income each year since 1944.

Comparability

Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance wage record data.—The wage or salary data shown in this report are not directly comparable with those which may be obtained from the wage records of the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance for several reasons. The coverage of the wage record data for 1949 is less inclusive than the 1950 Census data because of the exclusion of the wages or salaries of such groups as domestic servants, farm laborers, governmental employees, and employees of non-profit institutions. Furthermore, no wages or salaries received from any one employer in excess of \$3,000 in 1949 are covered by the wage record data. Finally, because the Bureau of the Census data are obtained by household interviews, they will differ from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance wage record data which are based upon employers' reports.

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 Bureau of 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.

