

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

POPULATION ESTIMATES

FOR RELEASE

August 31, 1952

Washington 25, D. C.

Series P-25, No. 63

ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE FOR STATES NOVEMBER 1952

(This report presents estimates of the civilian population 21 years old and over for November 1, 1952 and 1948. The estimates for 1948 shown in this report are not consistent with those for July 1, 1948, published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 15, because the latter were computed before the 1950 Census. The total number of persons of voting age, by States, enumerated in the 1950 Census is given in Series PC-14, No. 4)

About 7½ million civilians will be old enough to vote for the first time in the next presidential election on November 4, 1952, according to estimates announced today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. In November of this year, the total number of civilians old enough to vote will reach about 98.4 million; in 1948 the corresponding number was 94.9 million. These totals include the civilian population 21 years old and over for all States and the civilian population 18 to 20 years of age for Georgia where persons as young as 18 years are permitted by law to vote. They do not include members of the armed forces.

Although the number of civilians who will be old enough to vote for the first time in a presidential election this November will amount to about 7½ million, the net increase between 1948 and 1952 in the total number of civilians of voting age will amount to only 3½ million. The difference of about 4 million represents the net decrease in the number of civilians old enough to vote in 1948 and is due largely to deaths during the four years.

The civilian population of voting age includes a great many persons who, although old enough to vote, cannot do so because they have not satisfied State requirements as to citizenship, residence, registration, or payment of poll taxes. It is estimated that there will be about 2¼ million aliens of voting age in the United States in November. Among the citizens of voting age, there are many persons who may vote because they are confined in penal institutions or are inmates of mental hospitals

and kindred institutions. In all these cases, eligibility to vote is determined by State laws, which vary in many respects. Furthermore, there is a substantial number of persons in the District of Columbia who lack voting residence in any State.

In the presidential election of 1948, the total vote cast was 48,833,680, which is equal to about 51.4 percent of the civilians of voting age (table 1). (A small part of the vote was cast by persons in the armed forces.) This percentage is the smallest of those in the last five presidential elections; the largest percentage occurred in the 1940 election when 49,820,312 votes were cast, or 59.3 votes per 100 civilians.

Table 1.—CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, 1932-1952, AND VOTE CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1932-1948

| Date | Estimated civilian population of voting age ¹ | Vote cast for presidential electors | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| | | Number | Percent of civilian population of voting age |
| November 1952..... | 98,377,000 | ... | ... |
| November 1948..... | 94,916,000 | 48,833,680 | 51.4 |
| November 1944..... | 81,227,000 | ² 45,285,000 | 55.8 |
| November 1940..... | 83,989,000 | 49,820,312 | 59.3 |
| November 1936..... | 79,962,000 | 45,647,117 | 57.1 |
| November 1932..... | 75,594,000 | 39,751,438 | 52.6 |

¹ Population 21 years old and over plus population 18 to 20 years in Georgia for 1944 to 1952 only.

² Vote cast by civilians. The total vote was 47,976,263. See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Election: 1944, Nos. 3 and 5.

In the presidential election of 1944, the total vote cast was 47,976,263, of which it is estimated that 45,285,000 represented votes cast by civilians. In forecasting the vote to be cast in November, account should be taken not only of the 3½ million increase since 1948 in the civilian population of voting age but also of the number of votes that may be cast by the armed forces in this country and overseas.

According to the estimates, the civilian population 21 years old and over will be greater in 1952 than in 1948 in all States except Maine, Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, and Washington. Among the States with indicated increases in the population of voting age only New York will have a gain of over 300,000; 5 States (Florida, Texas, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) will have gains of between 200,000 and 300,000; 5 States (North Carolina, Illinois, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Indiana) will have gains of between 100,000 and 200,000; and the remaining 34 States will have gains of less than 100,000.

The number of votes cast for president in 1948, by States, varied considerably in relation to the civilian population of voting age in each State. In one-half of the States the vote was more than 59.4 percent of the civilian population of voting age. In general, the Southern States had the smallest ratios of votes cast to the population old enough to vote, and the North Central States had the largest ratios.

The estimates of the total civilian population of voting age in the United States presented in this release are based on data from the 1930, 1940, and 1950 Censuses; vital statistics provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; statistics on immigration and emigration provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and figures relating to the armed forces provided by the Department of Defense.

The State estimates of the civilian population 21 years old and over for November 1952 are based on statistics for the corresponding younger group in April 1950, adjusted for deaths, net movement of civilians into the armed forces, and net civilian migration between April 1950 and November 1952. The estimates for November 1948 were developed in a similar fashion. Since account was taken of both the 1940 and 1950 Censuses, they are not consistent with corresponding estimates for July 1, 1944, 1946, and 1948, published in earlier numbers of Current Population Reports.

The estimates of deaths since 1950 in the age group 21 years old and over in November 1952 are based on statistics of resident deaths by age for 1949, provisional statistics on total deaths between April 1950 and November 1952, and estimates of deaths of persons in the armed forces stationed in each State. The estimated net movement of civilians into the armed forces for each State was obtained as the difference between the estimated number of persons 21 years old and over in the armed forces in November 1952 and the number at the corresponding younger age in the armed forces in April 1950 adjusted for deaths of persons in this group while serving in the armed forces.

The estimates of net civilian migration since 1950 in the age group 21 years old and over in November 1952, by States, are based on estimated rates of net migration for the total population of each State. The rates of net migration for the total population, in turn, are based on statistics from the 1950 Census, statistics on enrollment in the elementary grades of public and private schools, statistics on civilian immigration and emigration, and birth and death statistics. The latest school data available for all States at the time these estimates were prepared related to the end of the school year 1950-1951. It was necessary, therefore, to extend our estimates of net internal migration from July 1951 to November 1952 without benefit of current school data for the intervening period. It was assumed in making the estimates that the rate of net migration for the population 21 years old and over was essentially the same as that for the population of all ages, but this assumption may not apply equally well to all States. Hence, the State figures on net migration may vary considerably in accuracy.

The net change between 1948 and 1952 in the number of civilians of voting age is the net result of deaths, net movement into the armed forces, net civilian migration, and the accession of persons reaching voting age. Errors in the estimates of these components of change will effect the figures for net change shown in table 2. The estimates of net migration are subject to a considerably greater percentage error than are the estimates for the other components of population change. For some States, net migration is relatively large, and hence the estimates of net change between 1948 and 1952 for these States are subject to substantial error. Percentage-wise, however, the errors in the estimates of total population will probably be considerably smaller than those in the estimates of net change.

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, NOVEMBER 1952 AND 1948, AND VOTE CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1948

(Each estimate has been independently rounded to the nearest thousand from figures computed to the last digit; hence, the sums of parts shown may differ slightly from the totals shown. Amounts and percentages of change are based on unrounded numbers)

| Region, division, and State | Civilian population of voting age ¹ | | | | Vote cast for presidential electors, 1948 | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| | November 1, 1952 | November 1, 1948 | Increase (+) or decrease (-), 1948 to 1952 | | Number ² | Percent of civilian population of voting age |
| | | | Amount | Percent | | |
| United States..... | 98,377,000 | 94,916,000 | +3,462,000 | +3.6 | 48,833,680 | 51.4 |
| REGIONS: | | | | | | |
| Northeast..... | 27,322,000 | 26,506,000 | +816,000 | +3.1 | 15,943,803 | 60.2 |
| North Central..... | 29,606,000 | 28,620,000 | +987,000 | +3.4 | 17,540,437 | 61.3 |
| South..... | 28,364,000 | 27,133,000 | +1,231,000 | +4.5 | 8,141,753 | 30.0 |
| West..... | 13,086,000 | 12,658,000 | +428,000 | +3.4 | 7,207,687 | 56.9 |
| NORTHEAST: | | | | | | |
| New England..... | 6,325,000 | 6,279,000 | +47,000 | +0.7 | 3,984,572 | 63.5 |
| Middle Atlantic..... | 20,996,000 | 20,227,000 | +770,000 | +3.8 | 11,959,231 | 59.1 |
| NORTH CENTRAL: | | | | | | |
| East North Central..... | 20,458,000 | 19,808,000 | +649,000 | +3.3 | 11,962,740 | 60.4 |
| West North Central..... | 9,148,000 | 8,811,000 | +337,000 | +3.8 | 5,577,697 | 63.3 |
| SOUTH: | | | | | | |
| South Atlantic..... | 12,993,000 | 12,313,000 | +681,000 | +5.5 | 3,833,997 | 31.1 |
| East South Central..... | 6,470,000 | 6,383,000 | +87,000 | +1.4 | 1,780,111 | 27.9 |
| West South Central..... | 8,901,000 | 8,437,000 | +463,000 | +5.5 | 2,527,645 | 30.0 |
| WEST: | | | | | | |
| Mountain..... | 3,174,000 | 2,830,000 | +344,000 | +12.1 | 1,797,010 | 62.1 |
| Pacific..... | 9,912,000 | 9,827,000 | +84,000 | +0.9 | 5,450,677 | 55.5 |
| NEW ENGLAND: | | | | | | |
| Maine..... | 545,000 | 561,000 | -16,000 | -2.9 | 264,787 | 47.2 |
| New Hampshire..... | 351,000 | 340,000 | +12,000 | +3.4 | 231,440 | 68.1 |
| Vermont..... | 231,000 | 230,000 | +1,000 | +0.6 | 123,382 | 53.7 |
| Massachusetts..... | 3,220,000 | 3,249,000 | -29,000 | -0.9 | 2,155,347 | 66.3 |
| Rhode Island..... | 533,000 | 530,000 | +2,000 | +0.5 | 326,098 | 61.5 |
| Connecticut..... | 1,445,000 | 1,368,000 | +77,000 | +5.6 | 883,518 | 64.6 |
| MIDDLE ATLANTIC: | | | | | | |
| New York..... | 10,478,000 | 10,155,000 | +323,000 | +3.2 | 6,274,527 | 61.8 |
| New Jersey..... | 3,476,000 | 3,249,000 | +227,000 | +7.0 | 1,949,555 | 60.0 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 7,043,000 | 6,823,000 | +219,000 | +3.2 | 3,735,149 | 54.7 |
| EAST NORTH CENTRAL: | | | | | | |
| Ohio..... | 5,350,000 | 5,340,000 | +9,000 | +0.2 | 2,936,071 | 55.0 |
| Indiana..... | 2,626,000 | 2,517,000 | +109,000 | +4.3 | 1,656,214 | 65.8 |
| Illinois..... | 5,967,000 | 5,810,000 | +157,000 | +2.7 | 3,984,046 | 68.6 |
| Michigan..... | 4,264,000 | 4,009,000 | +255,000 | +6.4 | 2,109,609 | 52.6 |
| Wisconsin..... | 2,251,000 | 2,132,000 | +119,000 | +5.6 | 1,276,800 | 59.9 |
| WEST NORTH CENTRAL: | | | | | | |
| Minnesota..... | 1,899,000 | 1,869,000 | +30,000 | +1.6 | 1,212,226 | 64.9 |
| Iowa..... | 1,688,000 | 1,643,000 | +45,000 | +2.7 | 1,038,264 | 63.2 |
| Missouri..... | 2,656,000 | 2,564,000 | +92,000 | +3.6 | 1,578,628 | 61.6 |
| North Dakota..... | 350,000 | 346,000 | +3,000 | +0.9 | 220,716 | 63.7 |
| South Dakota..... | 398,000 | 376,000 | +22,000 | +5.7 | 250,105 | 66.5 |
| Nebraska..... | 882,000 | 823,000 | +59,000 | +7.1 | 488,939 | 59.4 |
| Kansas..... | 1,276,000 | 1,189,000 | +87,000 | +7.3 | 788,819 | 66.3 |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC: | | | | | | |
| Delaware..... | 220,000 | 212,000 | +8,000 | +3.6 | 139,073 | 65.5 |
| Maryland..... | 1,570,000 | 1,498,000 | +72,000 | +4.8 | 596,735 | 39.8 |
| District of Columbia..... | 566,000 | 593,000 | -27,000 | -4.5 | ... | ... |
| Virginia..... | 1,979,000 | 1,942,000 | +38,000 | +1.9 | 419,256 | 21.6 |
| West Virginia..... | 1,128,000 | 1,120,000 | +9,000 | +0.8 | 748,790 | 66.9 |
| North Carolina..... | 2,326,000 | 2,167,000 | +159,000 | +7.3 | 791,209 | 36.5 |
| South Carolina..... | 1,112,000 | 1,042,000 | +70,000 | +6.7 | 142,571 | 13.7 |
| Georgia..... | 2,114,000 | 2,057,000 | +57,000 | +2.8 | 418,760 | 20.4 |
| Florida..... | 1,978,000 | 1,683,000 | +295,000 | +17.5 | 577,643 | 34.3 |
| EAST SOUTH CENTRAL: | | | | | | |
| Kentucky..... | 1,655,000 | 1,655,000 | (3) | (4) | 822,658 | 49.7 |
| Tennessee..... | 1,930,000 | 1,911,000 | +19,000 | +1.0 | 550,283 | 28.8 |
| Alabama..... | 1,709,000 | 1,676,000 | +33,000 | +2.0 | 214,980 | 12.8 |
| Mississippi..... | 1,176,000 | 1,141,000 | +35,000 | +3.1 | 192,190 | 16.9 |
| WEST SOUTH CENTRAL: | | | | | | |
| Arkansas..... | 1,070,000 | 1,048,000 | +22,000 | +2.1 | 242,475 | 23.1 |
| Louisiana..... | 1,613,000 | 1,522,000 | +91,000 | +6.0 | 416,326 | 27.4 |
| Oklahoma..... | 1,372,000 | 1,295,000 | +77,000 | +5.9 | 721,599 | 55.7 |
| Texas..... | 4,845,000 | 4,573,000 | +273,000 | +6.0 | 1,147,245 | 25.1 |
| MOUNTAIN: | | | | | | |
| Montana..... | 362,000 | 347,000 | +15,000 | +4.2 | 224,278 | 64.6 |
| Idaho..... | 352,000 | 339,000 | +13,000 | +3.9 | 214,816 | 63.4 |
| Wyoming..... | 180,000 | 169,000 | +11,000 | +6.5 | 101,425 | 59.9 |
| Colorado..... | 880,000 | 761,000 | +119,000 | +15.7 | 515,237 | 67.7 |
| New Mexico..... | 376,000 | 317,000 | +59,000 | +18.6 | 185,767 | 58.6 |
| Arizona..... | 495,000 | 416,000 | +80,000 | +19.2 | 177,065 | 42.6 |
| Utah..... | 414,000 | 377,000 | +37,000 | +9.7 | 276,305 | 73.3 |
| Nevada..... | 115,000 | 105,000 | +10,000 | +9.9 | 62,117 | 59.3 |
| PACIFIC: | | | | | | |
| Washington..... | 1,543,000 | 1,565,000 | -23,000 | -1.5 | 905,059 | 57.8 |
| Oregon..... | 1,035,000 | 1,025,000 | +10,000 | +1.0 | 524,080 | 51.1 |
| California..... | 7,333,000 | 7,237,000 | +97,000 | +1.3 | 4,021,538 | 55.6 |

¹ The population figures for all States except Georgia relate to civilians 21 years old and over. For Georgia the figures are for the civilian population 18 years old and over.

² See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1951.

³ Less than 1,000.

⁴ Less than 0.1.