

# CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

## POPULATION ESTIMATES PM 1 03

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### PROVISIONAL REVISION OF THE PROJECTIONS OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES: JULY 1, 1953 TO 1960

The availability of data from the 1950 Census of Population and the unexpected continuation of the high postwar birth rates call for changes in the set of projections of the population of the United States which were prepared by the Bureau of the Census early in 1950 and published in "Illustrative Projections of the Population of the United States: 1950 to 1960," Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 43. Although a thorough revision of the entire set of projections cannot be completed in the immediate future, it was thought desirable to prepare a provisional revision of the projections of the total population, including armed forces overseas, the set for which there is the greater demand. The revised projections are as follows:

Date	Projections of total population, including armed forces overseas (in thousands)		
	Low series	Medium series	High series
July 1, 1953.....	158,488	159,216	160,092
July 1, 1954.....	159,974	161,296	162,943
July 1, 1955.....	161,190	163,186	165,758
July 1, 1956.....	162,154	164,890	168,532
July 1, 1957.....	162,990	166,520	171,333
July 1, 1958.....	163,780	168,132	174,174
July 1, 1959.....	164,504	169,680	176,998
July 1, 1960.....	165,174	171,176	179,812

These projections represent revisions of the projections appearing on page 7 of Series P-25, No. 43. The expressions "low," "medium," and

"high" and other expressions used here are defined in that report.

In preparing these revised projections, the main considerations were to employ a simple, quick, and yet sufficiently precise procedure which could be adapted by others who wish to make their own revisions from time to time and to conserve as much as possible the results of the intensive study which was involved in the preparation of the projections published in Series P-25, No. 43. It was felt that these two considerations could be met by adopting the following procedure. The latest available current estimate, that for January 1, 1952 (published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 57), was taken as the base. The required projections were then obtained by adding to that base the cumulated increases implied in the original projections given in Series P-25, No. 43, starting from July 1, 1950, the effective base date of the original projections.<sup>1</sup> For example, the revised medium series projection for July 1, 1952, was obtained by adding to the current estimate for January 1, 1952, one-half of the increase between July 1, 1950, and July 1, 1951, implied in the medium series projections given in Series P-25, No. 43. The rationale for this procedure derives from the fact that in the original projections the main component of relative population change, the birth rate, was assumed to decline considerably from its 1949

<sup>1</sup> The working base date for the projections given in Series P-25, No. 43, is July 1, 1949. However, a considerable portion of the projected changes in the fiscal year ending July 1, 1950, was based on current data rather than on projected data.

high. However, since 1949, in some degree because of the Korean war, the birth rate has continued at approximately its 1949 level. Thus, the expected decline can be assumed to have been delayed temporarily, and it seems appropriate now to reapply the original projected chain of population increases with their implied declining birth rates.

This procedure also implies that current death rates and amounts of net migration have remained at their 1949 levels, which is approximately the case.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the changes in death rates and the amounts of net migration are usually relatively small and consequently have little effect on the amounts of annual increase in total population. The possible variations in the birth rate, as in the past 10 years, render the birth rate by far the most important factor in relative population increase for the immediate future.

The age-sex projections shown in Series P-25, No. 43, cannot be adjusted easily to make them consistent with the revised projections of total population given here. However, rough revisions, taking into account the projected births implied by the revised projections of total population given above and the age-sex data from the 1950 Census can be prepared with some labor by those who desire them. The projected total numbers of births implied by the revised total population projections given above are as follows.

<sup>2</sup> Deaths to armed forces overseas are included in deaths. Thus the effect of the Korean war would tend to retard somewhat the expected decline in the death rate.

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Year ending June 30	Projections of total births (in thousands)		
	Low series	Medium series	High series
1953.....	3,204	3,475	3,814
1954.....	2,932	3,302	3,810
1955.....	2,684	3,138	3,804
1956.....	2,458	2,982	3,798
1957.....	2,332	2,887	3,797
1958.....	2,298	2,852	3,802
1959.....	2,271	2,826	3,818
1960.....	2,252	2,810	3,846

Age-sex data based on a sample of returns from the 1950 Census have been published in 1950 Census of Population, Preliminary Reports, Series PC-7, No. 1. Age-sex data based on complete returns from the 1950 Census will be published sometime during the middle part of this year. Suggested procedures for using this material to prepare rough revisions of the age-sex distribution of the projections given in P-25, No. 43, can be obtained from the Bureau of the Census on request.

Projections of the population of States for 1955 and 1960 have been published recently in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 56. The totals shown for the United States in that report are the same as those given on page 7 of Series P-25, No. 43. The revised totals shown here may be used to adjust the State projections given in Series P-25, No. 56, if desired. The State projections were prepared before the revised totals became available.