

## Appendix B. Definitions and Explanations

**Population coverage.** The data in this report were collected in conjunction with the November 1986 sample survey which covered the population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The figures shown relate to the civilian noninstitutional population.

**Geographic regions.** The four major regions of the United States for which data are presented in this report represent groups of States as follows:

*Northeast:* Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*Midwest* (formerly North Central): Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

*South:* Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*West:* Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The North as used in this report includes the combined Northeast and Midwest regions.

**Geographic divisions.** The nine major geographic divisions for which data are shown in this report represent groups of States as follows:

*New England:* Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*Middle Atlantic:* New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

*East North Central:* Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

*West North Central:* Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

*South Atlantic:* Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*East South Central:* Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

*West South Central:* Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

*Mountain:* Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

*Pacific:* Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington.

**Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence.** The population residing in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. MSA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in the presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. An MSA is a geographic area consisting of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities which have a high degree of economic and social integration with the nucleus. The definitions specify a boundary around each large city so as to include most or all its suburbs. Entire counties form the MSA building blocks, except in New England where cities and towns are used. The former term SMSA was changed to MSA in 1983.

An area qualifies for recognition as an MSA if (1) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) it includes a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). In addition to the county containing the main city or urbanized area, an MSA may include other counties having strong commuting ties to the central county. If specified conditions are met, certain large MSA's are designated as consolidated MSA's (CMSA's) and divided into component MSA's (PMSA's).

**Central cities.** The largest city in each MSA is always designated a central city. There may be additional central cities if specified requirements, designed to identify places of central character within the MSA, are met. Although the largest central cities are generally included in the title of the MSA, there may be central cities that are not part of the title. The balance of the MSA outside the central city or cities often is regarded as equivalent to "suburbs."

**Note to users.** In July 1985, the CPS began carrying the metropolitan statistical area definitions announced by the Office of Management and Budget on June 30, 1984. Figures published from the CPS in the early 1980's and throughout most of the 1970's referred to metropolitan areas as defined

on the basis of the 1970 census. Since there are important differences in the population classified as metropolitan using the 1970 and 1984 definitions, comparisons should be avoided.

The new CPS metropolitan estimates have consistently been higher than independent estimates of the metropolitan population prepared by the Census Bureau; the new CPS nonmetropolitan estimates have been lower than the independent estimates. For example, between July 1985 and August 1986 the magnitude of the monthly differences varied from 900,000 to 2.5 million persons, so that the proportion of the population living in metropolitan areas according to the CPS has ranged from 0.4 to 1.0 percentage points higher than the independent estimate. The difference in level between the two sets of estimates is partially attributable to the basic CPS sample design, which, because of sampling variability, includes an oversample of metropolitan households and an undersample of nonmetropolitan households. The monthly variations result from the exit and entrance of rotation groups, each with slightly different metropolitan-nonmetropolitan proportions, into the sample. The apparent overestimation of metropolitan and underestimation of nonmetropolitan population in the CPS relative to the Bureau's independent estimates should be taken into account when using the data.

**Tenure.** A housing unit is "owner occupied" if the owner or co-owner lives in this unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. A cooperative or condominium unit is "owner occupied" only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied units are classified as "renter occupied," including units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent. In this report, renter units occupied without payment of cash rent are not shown separately.

**Age.** The age classification is based on the age of the person at the person's last birthday.

**Race.** The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black. In this report, "other races" is not shown separately.

**Persons of Hispanic origin.** Hispanics in this report were determined on the basis of a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (or the origin of some other household member) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Hispanics, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin.

**Citizenship.** All persons 18 years old and over were asked "Is (this person) a citizen of the United States?" Responses were recorded as "Yes," or "No," and "Don't know."

**Undocumented immigrants.** The 1980 census counted about 2 million undocumented immigrants according to Census

Bureau estimates. Beginning in January 1986, the independent population controls included an allowance for growth in the undocumented population for every year since 1980. This methodological change was partially offset by another change that increased the allowance for emigration of legal residents. The net impact of these changes is +76,000 a year in the total population and a somewhat smaller change in the voting age population. Data shown for Current Population Surveys with controls based on pre-1986 methods have not been revised to take into account these methodological changes. Consequently, direct comparisons of CPS figures for months before January 1986 with later months will not be entirely consistent, but the differences will be small. Series P-25, No. 985 reviews the postcensal population estimates methodology currently in use.

**Reported voter participation.** Voter participation data for 1986 were derived from replies to the following question asked of persons (excluding noncitizens) of voting age: "In any election some people are not able to vote because they are sick or busy, or have some other reason, and others do not want to vote. Did (this person) vote in the election held on November 4th?"

Those of voting age were classified as "voted" or "did not vote." In most tables, this "did not vote" class includes those reported as "did not vote," "do not know," noncitizens, and nonrespondents, but there are exceptions, which are properly noted in the tables where the "did not vote" class includes only those reported as "did not vote." Nonrespondents and persons who reported that they did not know if they voted were included in the "did not vote" class because of the general overreporting by respondents in the sample.

**Reported registration.** The data shown on registration were obtained by tabulating replies to the following question for those persons included in the category "did not vote." "Was (this person) registered to vote in the November 4th election?"

All persons reported as having voted were assumed to have been registered. Therefore, the total registered population is obtained by combining the number of persons who voted and persons included in the category "did not vote," but who had registered.

**Persons eligible to register.** The population of voting age includes a considerable number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot register and vote. Only citizens are eligible to vote. Among citizens of voting age, some persons are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals, or other institutions, or because they fail to meet State and local resident requirements for various reasons. The eligibility to register is governed by State laws which differ in many respects.

Registration is the act of qualifying to vote by formally enrolling on a list of voters. With certain exceptions, such as for members of the Armed Forces and a few States which permit registration by mail, registration is permanent, that is, once a person has enrolled as a voter his or her name remains

on the list as long as he or she continues to vote in the same jurisdiction—usually at least once every two or four years. In a few States or parts of States, voters must register for each election in which they desire to vote. People who have moved to another election district must take steps to have their names placed on the voting rolls in their new place of residence.

In a few States or parts of States, no formal registration is required. Voters merely present themselves at the polling place on election day with proof that they are of age and have met the appropriate residence requirements. Therefore, in these areas persons who are citizens and of voting age, and who meet the residence requirement, would be considered as being registered.

**Marital status.** The marital status classification identifies four major categories: single (never married), married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

The category “married” is further divided into “married, spouse present,” “separated,” and “other married, spouse absent.” A person was classified as “married, spouse present” if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household, even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily separated because of marital discord. The group “other married, spouse absent” includes married persons living apart because either the husband or wife was employed and living at a considerable distance from home, was serving away from home in the Armed Forces, had moved to another area, or had a different place of residence for any other reason except separation as defined above.

**Household.** A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

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

**Householder.** The householder refers to the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. If the household is owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. The

person designated as the householder is the “reference person” to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded.

Prior to 1980, the husband was always considered the household head (householder) in married couple households. The number of householders is equal to the number of households. Also, the number of family householders is equal to the number of families.

**Family.** A family is a group of two or more persons (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) are no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members.

**Family household.** A family household is a household maintained by a family (as defined above), including among the household members any unrelated persons (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all persons living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives (See the definition of Family).

**Nonfamily householder.** A nonfamily householder (formerly called a primary individual) is a person maintaining a household while living alone or with nonrelatives only.

**Married couple.** A married couple, as defined for census purposes, is a husband and wife enumerated as members of the same household. The married couple may or may not have children living with them. The expression “husband-wife” or “married-couple” before the term “household,” “family,” or “subfamily” indicates that the household, family, or subfamily is maintained by a husband and wife. The number of married couples equals the count of married-couple families plus related and unrelated married-couple subfamilies.

**Own children.** “Own” children in a family are sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children, of the householder. Similarly, “own” children in a subfamily are sons and daughters of the married couple or parent in the subfamily.

**Labor force and employment status.** Labor force status is usually shown for the population 16 years old and over; however, data in this report are restricted to persons 18 years old and over.

**Employed.** Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farms, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid family

workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

**Unemployed.** Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

**Labor force.** Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" comprises all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

**Not in the labor force.** All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntary idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

**Occupation.** Data on occupation are shown for the employed and relate to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The occupation groupings used here are the major groups used in the 1980 Census of Population. The composition of the groups is shown in 1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, *Characteristics of the Population, Chapter C, General Social and Economic Characteristics, U. S. Summary.*

The system developed for the 1980 census consists of 503 specific occupation categories arranged into 6 summary and 13 major occupation groups. The major occupation groups are combined in this report into 6 summary groups as follows:

- Managerial and professional specialty occupations
  - Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations
  - Professional specialty occupations
- Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations
  - Technicians and related support occupations
  - Sales occupations
  - Administrative support occupations, including clerical
- Service occupations
  - Private household occupations
  - Protective service occupations
  - Service occupations, except protective and household
- Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations
- Precision production, craft, and repair occupations
- Operators, fabricators, and laborers
  - Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors
  - Transportation and material moving occupations
  - Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers

**Family money income.** Family money income represents the total money income of all members of the family. Family money income in this report is limited to money income before payment of Federal, State, local, or Social Security taxes and before any other types of deductions such as union dues and Medicare premiums. Total income is the sum of the amounts received from wages, salaries, self-employment income (including losses), Social Security, Supplemental Security income, public assistance, interest, dividends, rent, veterans' payments, unemployment and workers' compensations, and any other source of money income which was regularly received.

It should be noted that the income estimates cited in this report are based on money income alone and do not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, subsidized school lunches and public housing, Medicaid, Medicare, employer contributions for pension and health plans, and other fringe benefits that are additional sources of noncash income for many individuals. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels.

In the November 1986 survey, family income was transcribed from information first obtained at the time a household entered the Current Population Survey and updated when it reentered the survey. For about one-fourth of the sample, the data are for the 12-month period ending in November 1986 and for the remaining fourths, the data are for 12-month periods ending in August, September, and October 1986.

Income data in this report are based on the respondents' estimate of total family money income in broad, fixed income levels. Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the rate of nonreporting while increasing the likelihood that the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions.

**Years of school completed.** In this report, 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 this person has attended?" and (b) "Did this person finish this grade?"

The questions on educational attainment applied only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day or night schools. Thus, "regular" schooling is that which advances a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

**School enrollment.** The November 1986 CPS included questions on school and college enrollment of persons 18 to 24 years old. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current

term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night.

**Rounding of estimates.** Individual numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Derived measures are based on unrounded numbers when possible; otherwise, they are based on the rounded numbers.

**Symbols.** A dash (—) represents zero or a number which rounds to zero. The symbol "B" means that the base is too small to show the derived measure; "NA" means not available, and "X" means not applicable.