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ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, FOR STATES NOVEMBER 1956 AND 1952

(This report presents estimates of the civilian population 21 years old and over, by States, for November 1, 1956 and 1952. The estimates for 1952 shown here supersede those published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 100)

About 102 3/4 million civilians will be old enough to vote in the presidential election on November 6, 1956, according to estimates released today by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The number of civilians who will be old enough to vote for the first time in a presidential election this November amounts to about 7.5 million--3.3 million men and 4.2 million women. The total includes the civilian population 21 years old and over for all States and the civilian population 18 to 20 years old for Georgia and Kentucky, where persons as young as 18 years are permitted by law to vote. It does not include members of the Armed Forces of voting age, who number approximately 2.1 million.

In November 1952, about 98.1 million civilians were of voting age. The increase in this group

between 1952 and 1956 is thus estimated at about 4.6 million, or 4.7 percent. This increase is composed of an increase of about 2.3 million men, or 4.8 percent, and an increase of about 2.4 million women, or 4.6 percent. Women of voting age, estimated at 53.7 million for 1956, will outnumber men by about 4.6 million. Nearly half of this difference is accounted for, however, by men in the Armed Forces.

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 are about 2 1/2 million aliens of voting age in the United States. Among the citizens of voting age, there are many persons who are not permitted to vote because they are confined in penal

Table 1.--ESTIMATED CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, BY SEX, 1936 TO 1956, AND VOTE CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1936 TO 1952

Date	Civilian population of voting age ¹				Vote cast for presidential electors	
	Total	Male	Female	Males per 100 females	Number	Percent of civilian population of voting age
November 1956.....	102,743,000	49,091,000	53,652,000	91.5
November 1952.....	98,133,000	46,835,000	51,298,000	91.3	² 61,552,000	62.7
November 1948.....	94,877,000	46,347,000	48,530,000	95.5	² 48,834,000	51.5
November 1944 ³	90,599,000	45,140,000	45,459,000	99.3	⁴ 47,976,000	53.0
November 1940.....	84,319,000	41,884,000	42,435,000	98.7	49,820,000	59.1
November 1936.....	80,055,000	40,187,000	39,868,000	100.8	45,647,000	57.0

¹ Population 21 years old and over plus population 18 to 20 years in Georgia for 1944 to date and Kentucky for 1956.

² A small part of the vote was cast by persons in the Armed Forces.

³ Total population including Armed Forces overseas.

⁴ Vote cast by civilians was 45,285,000. See U. S. Bureau of the Census, Election: 1944, Nos. 3 and 5.

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.

According to the estimates, the civilian population 21 years old and over is appreciably greater in 1956 than in 1952 in most States. Among the States with indicated increases in the population of voting age, California leads with a gain of over 800,000; 5 States (Florida, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Texas) had gains of between 200,000 and 400,000; 7 States (Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Wisconsin) had gains of between 100,000 and 200,000; 11 States had gains of between 50,000 and 100,000; 19 States (including the District of Columbia) had gains of less than 50,000; and 6 States had some loss in population of voting age.

METHODOLOGY

The estimates of the civilian population of voting age for the United States as a whole are based on data from the censuses of 1950 and earlier years; 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 1956 are based on statistics for the corresponding younger age group in April 1950, adjusted for deaths, net movement of civilians into the Armed Forces, and net civilian migration between April 1950 and November 1956. The estimates for November 1952 were developed in a similar fashion.

The estimates of deaths since 1950 in the age group 21 years old and over (in November 1956) are based on statistics of resident deaths by age for 1950 to 1954, provisional statistics on total resident deaths for 1955 and 1956, 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 1956 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 civilian migration since 1950 in the age group 21 years old and over (in November 1956), by States, are based on estimated rates of net migration for the total population of each State. 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. This assumption may not apply very well to some States. Hence, the State figures on net migration may vary considerably in accuracy.

The net change between 1952 and 1956 in the number of civilians of voting age is the net result of deaths of civilians, net movement into the Armed Forces, net civilian migration, and the "aging" of persons into the voting age group from the younger ages. Errors in the estimates of these components of change will affect the figures on 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 1952 and 1956 for these States are subject to substantial error. Percentagewise, 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 FOR STATES, 1956 AND 1952, AND VOTE CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, 1952

(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, 1952	
	November 1, 1956	November 1, 1952	Increase (+) or decrease (-), 1952 to 1956		Number ²	Percent of civilian population of voting age
			Amount	Percent		
United States.....	102,743,000	98,133,000	+4,610,000	+4.7	61,552,000	62.7
REGIONS:						
Northeast.....	27,643,000	26,997,000	+646,000	+2.4	18,802,000	69.6
North Central.....	30,737,000	29,427,000	+1,310,000	+4.5	21,153,000	71.9
South.....	29,822,000	28,482,000	+1,340,000	+4.7	12,447,000	43.7
West.....	14,541,000	13,227,000	+1,314,000	+9.9	9,152,000	69.2
NORTHEAST:						
New England.....	6,219,000	6,143,000	+76,000	+1.2	4,673,000	76.1
Middle Atlantic.....	21,424,000	20,854,000	+570,000	+2.7	14,129,000	67.3
NORTH CENTRAL:						
East North Central.....	21,435,000	20,374,000	+1,061,000	+5.2	14,543,000	71.4
West North Central.....	9,302,000	9,053,000	+249,000	+2.8	6,610,000	73.0
SOUTH:						
South Atlantic.....	13,902,000	13,025,000	+877,000	+6.7	5,767,000	44.3
East South Central.....	6,765,000	6,555,000	+210,000	+3.2	2,598,000	39.6
West South Central.....	9,155,000	8,902,000	+253,000	+2.8	4,082,000	45.9
WEST:						
Mountain.....	3,442,000	3,100,000	+342,000	+11.0	2,212,000	71.3
Pacific.....	11,099,000	10,127,000	+972,000	+9.6	6,940,000	68.5
NEW ENGLAND:						
Maine.....	545,000	551,000	-6,000	-1.2	352,000	63.9
New Hampshire.....	355,000	349,000	+6,000	+1.7	273,000	78.3
Vermont.....	223,000	231,000	-8,000	-3.4	154,000	66.6
Massachusetts.....	3,118,000	3,104,000	+14,000	+0.4	2,383,000	76.8
Rhode Island.....	520,000	514,000	+7,000	+1.3	414,000	80.6
Connecticut.....	1,458,000	1,394,000	+65,000	+4.6	1,097,000	78.7
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:						
New York.....	10,832,000	10,476,000	+356,000	+3.4	7,128,000	68.0
New Jersey.....	3,546,000	3,421,000	+125,000	+3.7	2,420,000	70.7
Pennsylvania.....	7,046,000	6,957,000	+89,000	+1.3	4,581,000	65.9
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:						
Ohio.....	5,704,000	5,349,000	+355,000	+6.6	3,701,000	69.2
Indiana.....	2,729,000	2,631,000	+97,000	+3.7	1,955,000	74.3
Illinois.....	6,082,000	5,955,000	+127,000	+2.1	4,481,000	75.2
Michigan.....	4,593,000	4,227,000	+366,000	+8.7	2,799,000	66.2
Wisconsin.....	2,328,000	2,212,000	+116,000	+5.3	1,607,000	72.7
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:						
Minnesota.....	1,977,000	1,909,000	+68,000	+3.6	1,379,000	72.2
Iowa.....	2,686,000	1,680,000	+1,006,000	+60.0	1,269,000	75.5
Missouri.....	2,717,000	2,627,000	+90,000	+3.4	1,892,000	72.0
North Dakota.....	379,000	362,000	+17,000	+4.8	270,000	74.6
South Dakota.....	407,000	392,000	+15,000	+3.7	294,000	79.0
Nebraska.....	876,000	842,000	+34,000	+4.1	610,000	72.4
Kansas.....	1,280,000	1,240,000	+40,000	+3.2	896,000	72.3
SOUTH ATLANTIC:						
Delaware.....	249,000	223,000	+26,000	+11.8	174,000	78.2
Maryland.....	1,700,000	1,540,000	+160,000	+10.4	902,000	58.6
District of Columbia.....	564,000	559,000	+5,000	+1.0	---	---
Virginia.....	2,043,000	1,973,000	+70,000	+3.6	620,000	31.4
West Virginia.....	1,147,000	1,156,000	-9,000	-0.8	874,000	75.6
North Carolina.....	2,447,000	2,301,000	+146,000	+6.4	1,211,000	52.6
South Carolina.....	1,222,000	1,159,000	+63,000	+5.5	341,000	29.4
Georgia.....	2,202,000	2,152,000	+50,000	+2.3	656,000	30.5
Florida.....	2,327,000	1,964,000	+364,000	+18.5	989,000	50.4
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:						
Kentucky.....	1,858,000	1,683,000	+175,000	+10.4	993,000	59.0
Tennessee.....	2,042,000	1,976,000	+66,000	+3.3	893,000	45.2
Alabama.....	1,742,000	1,720,000	+22,000	+1.3	426,000	24.8
Mississippi.....	1,123,000	1,176,000	-53,000	-4.5	286,000	24.3
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:						
Arkansas.....	1,019,000	1,027,000	-7,000	-3.5	405,000	38.3
Louisiana.....	1,659,000	1,619,000	+40,000	+2.5	652,000	40.3
Oklahoma.....	1,342,000	1,317,000	+25,000	+1.8	949,000	72.0
Texas.....	5,135,000	4,909,000	+226,000	+4.6	2,076,000	42.3
MOUNTAIN:						
Montana.....	375,000	367,000	+8,000	+2.3	265,000	72.3
Idaho.....	353,000	335,000	+19,000	+5.6	276,000	82.5
Wyoming.....	180,000	169,000	+11,000	+6.6	129,000	76.3
Colorado.....	953,000	844,000	+109,000	+12.9	630,000	74.7
New Mexico.....	409,000	380,000	+29,000	+7.5	239,000	62.8
Arizona.....	583,000	483,000	+99,000	+20.5	261,000	54.0
Utah.....	439,000	405,000	+34,000	+8.3	330,000	81.4
Nevada.....	150,000	117,000	+33,000	+28.5	82,000	70.1
PACIFIC:						
Washington.....	1,611,000	1,525,000	+86,000	+5.6	1,103,000	72.3
Oregon.....	1,075,000	1,031,000	+44,000	+4.3	695,000	67.4
California.....	8,412,000	7,971,000	+441,000	+11.1	5,142,000	67.9

¹ The population figures for all States except Georgia and Kentucky relate to civilians 21 years old and over. The figures for Georgia and Kentucky for 1956 and for Georgia for 1952 relate to the civilian population 18 years old and over.

² See U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1953*.

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