

# Appendix A.

## Definitions and Explanations

**Residence inside and outside metropolitan areas.** The population residing in metropolitan areas (MA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. MA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. An MA 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 that nucleus. The definitions specify a boundary around each large city so as to include most or all its suburbs. Entire counties form the MA building blocks, except in New England where cities and towns are used.

An area qualifies for recognition as an MA if (1) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population 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 MA may include other counties having strong commuting ties to the central county. If specified conditions are met, certain large MA's are designated as consolidated MA's (CMA's) and divided into component primary MA's (PMA's).

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 estimates of population outside metropolitan areas have been lower than the independent estimates. The apparent overestimation of metropolitan population in the CPS relative to the Census Bureau's independent estimates should be taken into account when using the data.

**Age.** The age classification is based on the age of the person at his or her last birthday. The adult universe (i.e., population of marriageable age) now comprises persons 15 years and over. Prior to 1980 the adult universe was 14 years old and over.

**Race.** In most cases the population is divided into four groups on the basis of race: White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut; and Asian and Pacific Islanders. In some tables and charts, the term "Other races" is used. This last category includes any other race except White and Black.

**Persons of Hispanic origin.** Persons of Hispanic origin 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. Persons of Hispanic origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**Marital status.** The marital status classification identifies four major

categories: 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 direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

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.

**Group quarters.** As of 1983, group quarters were defined in the Current Population Survey as noninstitutional living arrangements for groups not living in conventional housing units or groups living in housing units containing ten or more unrelated persons or nine or more persons unrelated to the person in charge. (Prior to 1983, group quarters included housing units containing five or more persons unrelated to the person in charge.) Examples of persons in group quarters include a person residing in a rooming house, in staff quarters at a hospital, or in a halfway house. Beginning in 1972, residents of institutions have not been included in the Current Population Survey.

**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 house 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 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.

**Head versus householder.** Beginning with the 1980 CPS, the Bureau of the Census discontinued the use of the terms "head of household" and "head of family." Instead, the terms "householder" and "family householder" are used. Recent social changes have resulted in greater sharing of household responsibilities among the adult members and, therefore, have made the term "head" increasingly inappropriate in the analysis of household and family data. Specifically, the Census Bureau has discontinued its longtime practice of always classifying the husband as the reference person (head) when he and his wife are living together.

**Reference person.** The reference person is the person with regard to whom the relationship of other persons in the household is recorded. The household reference person is the person listed as the householder (see definition of "Householder"). The subfamily reference person is either the single parent or the husband/wife in a married-couple situation.

**Family.** A family is a group of two persons or more (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), and any unrelated persons (unrelated

subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there are included. 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.

**Family group.** A family group is any two or more persons (not necessarily including a householder) residing together, and related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household may be composed on one such group, more than one, or none at all. The count of family groups includes family households, related subfamilies, and unrelated subfamilies.

**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.

**Unmarried couple.** An unmarried couple is composed of two unrelated adults of the opposite sex (one of whom is the householder) who share a housing unit with or without the presence of children under 15 years old.

**Unrelated individuals.** Unrelated individuals are persons of any age

who are not members of families or subfamilies.

**Nonfamily householder.** A nonfamily householder is a person maintaining a household while living alone or exclusively with persons to whom they are not related.

**Own children and related 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. (All children shown as members of related subfamilies are own children of the person(s) maintaining the subfamily.) “Related” children in a family include own children and all other children in the household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. For each type of family unit identified in the CPS, the count of own children under 18 years old is limited to never-married children; however, “own children under 25” and “own children of any age,” as the terms are used here, include all children regardless of marital status. The totals include never-married children living away from home in college dormitories.

The count of related children in families was formerly restricted to never-married children. However, beginning with data for 1968 the Bureau of the Census includes ever-married children under the category of related children. This change added approximately 20,000 children to the category of related children in March 1968.

**Tenure.** A housing unit (including cooperative or condominium unit) is “owned” if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or

not fully paid for. All other occupied units are classified as “rented,” including units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

**Educational attainment.** Educational attainment refers to the highest of school completed or highest degree received. Education is derived from a single question that asks “What is the highest grade or school ... has completed, or the highest degree ... has received?” For persons who attended school beyond high school, highest degree is recorded, rather than years of college.

**Labor force and employment status.** The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report are related to the civilian population 15 years and over. Persons shown here are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians or unemployed during the survey week.

**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 farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid 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

(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.

**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.

**Income.** Current Population Survey (CPS), data on income cover money income only, prior to deduction for taxes, received from such sources as wages or salaries, net income from self-employment, Social Security, dividends, interest, public assistance and welfare, unemployment compensation, government pensions, and veterans payments. Certain money

receipts such as capital gains are not included.

In data are from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), the cash income concept includes the sum of all income received from any of the sources listed in table A-1. Rebates, refunds, loans and capital gain or loss amounts from the sale of assets, and interhousehold transfers of cash such as allowances are not included.

Accrued interest on Individual Retirement Accounts, KEOGH retirement plans, and U.S. Saving bonds are also excluded. This definition differs somewhat from that used in the annual income reports based on the March CPS income supplement questionnaire. The data in those reports, published in the Current Population Reports, Series P-60, are based only on income received in a regular or periodic manner and, therefore, exclude lump-sum or one-time payments, such as inheritances or insurance settlements which are included as

income in SIPP. Educational assistance, which is included in the March CPS income concept, is not included in the SIPP income concept.

The income amounts represent amounts actually received during the month, before deductions for income and payroll taxes, union dues, Part B Medicare premiums, etc.

The SIPP income definition includes three types of earnings: wages and salary, nonfarm self-employment, and farm self-employment. The definition of nonfarm self-employment and farm self-employment is not based on the net difference between gross receipts or sales and operating expenses, depreciation, etc. The monthly amounts for these income types are based on the salary or other income received from the business by the owner of the business or farm during the 4-month period. Earnings from all jobs and self-employment are included.

While the income amounts from most sources are recorded monthly for the

4-month reference period, property income amounts such as interest, dividends, and rental income, were recorded as totals for the 4-month period. These totals were distributed equally between months of the reference period for purposes of calculating poverty status for SIPP.

**Poverty.** The poverty definition used here is that adopted for official Government use by the Office of Management and Budget and consists of a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition. Families or individuals with income below a particular threshold are classified as below the poverty level. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. These thresholds are based on money income only and do not include the value of noncash benefits such as employer-provided health insurance, food stamps, or Medicaid. For a more detailed explanation, see Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60.