DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 102 365

CE 003 077

AUTHOR

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TITLE

Changing Patterns of Labor Force Participation Rates

of Nonwhites in the South.

INSTITUTION

Georgia Univ., Athens.

SPONS AGENCY

Economic Research Service (DOA), Washington, D.C.: National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. RANN

Program.

PUB DATE

Feb 74

NOTE

14p.: Paper presented to the Rural Sociology Section

of the Southern Association of Agricultural

Scientists (Memphis, Tennessee, February 1974); Some

tables and diagrams are marginally reproducible

EDRS PRICE DESCRIPTORS MF-\$0.76 HC-\$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE

Caucasians: *Employment Level: *Employment Trends: Females: *Labor Force: Labor Supply: Males: *Negro Employment: Negro Role: Participation: Population

Distribution: *Southern States

ABSTRACT

Growth or decline in the labor force can be viewed as stemming from changes in population and labor force participation, and from their interaction. In the period 1940-70 a large increase occurred in the female labor force, particularly in the South, while a decrease was noted in the participation of nonwhites. When the sexes are considered separately within the color groups, the highest increase in labor force participation was that for white females, a lower increase was observed for nonwhite females although their employment rate remains higher than for white females. In contrast, rates have dropped for white and nonwhite males in the South, with a sharper decline for nonwhites. When the variable of age is included a steady decline is noted for older white males and for both young and old nonwhite males, while increases in all age groups occurred for white and nonwhite females, especially among middle aged nonwhites. In summary, the proportions of persons in the various age-sex-color groups comprising the total labor force in the South indicates greater participation by white women, and a smaller increase for nonwhite women in the middle and older years and for middle aged white men. (SA)



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CHANGING PATTERNS OF LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES OF NONWHITES IN THE SOUTH*

By

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The research on which this paper is based is a part of the project. "Population Redistribution: A Challenge for Policy and Planning," underway at the University of Georgia. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation. Research Associated with National Needs. It is also supported, in part, by the Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociology Section of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Memphis, Tennessee, February 5, 1974.
- Assistance was received from other members of the NSF-RANN project indicated above.

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Changing Patterns of Labor Force Participation Rates of Nonwhites in the South

One of the most interesting and important postwar developments in the United States has been the rise of the South. Before World War II, the high fertility rates of the South had won it the title of the "seedbed of the nation," and the low economic productivity of its population had led to its designation as the "Nation's Number One Economic Problem." There were many reasons why the South lagged behind the rest of the nation, but none was more important than the low levels of education in both the white and black population. At the beginning of World War II, one in four of Southern whites aged 25 and over had finished high school, and for Southern blacks the proportion was one in 20.

Since then the changes have been dramatic, and the South no longer compares so unfavorably with the North and West in terms of income or education. Southern white women now have fewer children than white women in other regions, and the outmigration of blacks has been so great that about half of that racial group now live in the North and West. The South is rapidly industrializing and it has become a region of net inmigration and, in particular, of net inmigration of college graduates. The latest population estimates issued by the Bureau of the Census indicate that the South is now growing more rapidly than the West, for more than a century the leading region in that respect.

The purpose of this paper is to examine one facet of the redistribution of the black population, that associated with changes in population of labor force age and in labor force participation in the South as compared with the non-South or the nation as a whole. The sources of growth in the labor force between 1940 and 1970 are considered as are changing proportions that the South has comprised of the national totals, a reflection of the redistribution that has occurred. A broad view is given of changes at the total level, by sex and color, and by age.

Total

Growth or decline in the labor force can be viewed as stemming from two sources, changes in population and in labor force participation, and, of course, from the interaction between these two. In tables 1, 2, and 3 population and labor force data for persons aged 14 and over are shown for the United States, South, and the non-South by color and sex. And in Tables 1a, 2a, and 3a changes in labor force from 1940 to 1970 are allocated to each of the sources.

The period 1940 to 1970 was one of rapid growth, both in population and labor force. The South had grown a little faster than the



rest of the nation, its labor force-age population having increased by 52 as compared with 46 percent for the non-South, and its labor force by 59 as against 55 percent for the non-South, shifting the Southern shares upward.

There were some differences in the sources of change in the labor force, although admittedly small, between the South and the non-South, when they are considered without reference to their age, sex, color structures. For the non-South 84 percent of the increase in the labor force was due to population growth with the remaining 16 percent due to change in participation rates and to the interaction between changes in rates and in population. For the Southern labor force the situation was little different -- 87 percent of the growth was due to population and 13 percent attributable to changes in participation rates and to the interaction.

Sex

It is well known that women have assumed increasing importance in labor force activities. In this regard the South is much like the rest of the nation. The fact is that during the 1940-70 period labor force participation for males decreased while that of females increased in extraordinary fashion. As a result of roughly equivalent increases contributed by population and labor force participation, the female labor force in the South was two and one-half times as large in 1970 as in 1940. In the non-South, the female labor force was about two and a third times larger in 1970. All of the increase in male labor force was due to population growth as the overall participation rates, in both the South and the non-South, actually declined.

In the South, and in the non-South, approximately 60 percent of the growth in the labor force over the 30 year period was attributable to the increased numbers of females in the labor force. Some 12.2 million females were added to the non-Southern work force as compared with 3.4 million males, while in the South the addition of some 5.6 million females compared with about 3.7 million males.

The South's shares that males and females were of the total U. S. population 14 years and over did not change much between 1940 and 1970. Because the increase in females in the labor force was disproportionately high in the South, Southern females came to occupy a larger share of the nation's labor force, while that of males declined.

Color

It is also well known that the numerical and relative importance of nonwhites (or blacks) in the labor force picture has shifted between



the South and the rest of the nation. The massive outmigration from the South since the beginning of World War II, and associated differential growth rates in population of labor force age, are primary factors in the change in the distribution of the labor force, by color, that has occurred in this period. But changes in labor force participation have also had an impact; the rates declined for nonwhites and increased for whites in the South and the rest of the nation. As a result non-whites were a lower share of the population and labor force in the South in 1970 as compared with 1940, and they were larger shares in the non-South.

Color and Sex

While the redistribution of the labor force appears rather spectacular for the whites and nonwhites, it seems even more remarkable if we consider the sexes separately within the color groups. It has already been noted that the major part of the increase in the labor force was of women. Greater willingness to work outside the home, abetted by increasing education, falling fertility, and changing attitudes toward the proper roles for females were major factors in changes in labor force participation of females as were generally favorable economic conditions. For women everywhere the post-war period was one of increasing economic activity. This was especially true for the South, since in that region both mores and economic conditions had operated to limit the use of women in the work force.

At the beginning of the period, 21 percent of Southern white women were in the labor force compared to 26 percent elsewhere. By 1970, the rate for the South almost equalled that of the rest of the nation; just a little less that two-fifths in both areas were actively engaged in economic activities.

Rates for nonwhite Southern women and those elsewhere in the country were substantially higher than those of whites, throughout the period, but their increase was considerably less - from around 37 to 44 percent from 1940 to 1970. While white women in the South lagged far behind women elsewhere in their labor force participation in 1940, they had almost closed that gap by 1970.

The convergence in rates among the two color groups of females contrasts with the divergent pattern that is found among males. Rates have dropped for both white and nonwhite males in the South and the non-South, but those for nonwhites declined much more sharply. In 1940, 80 percent of Southern white and nonwhite men were in the labor force; thirty years later, 73 percent of whites but only 64 percent of non-whites were so engaged. Outside the South, the same patterns obtained, but the declines were not as great.



In both the South and the rest of the nation, less than half of the increase in the number of white females in the labor force was due to population growth. This was also true for nonwhite women in the South. Elsewhere the increase in nonwhite women was largely a matter of population growth, stemming in part from migration from the South, since the increase in participation rate was moderate.

Growth in the male labor force outside the South and for whites in the South was entirely due to population increase. The Southern norwhite male labor force actually declined in spite of small population growth because of the drop in labor force participation rates. The very large increase in the nonwhite male labor force outside the South was entirely due to population growth, again in part from migration from the South.

In the non-South, the number of white females in the labor force grew by 121 percent over the 30 years, as against 25 percent for white males. Even so, those were relatively small increases as compared with the South, where the number of white females in the labor force soared by 212 percent as against a 44 percent increase in the number of white male workers.

The redistribution of labor force activities among males and females and whites and blacks is readily shown by the different proportions they comprised of the total work force in 1970 as compared with 1940. In the nation, white women constituted 21 percent of the labor force in 1940; 30 years later the proportion was 32 percent. In the South, the increase was more extreme, from 15 percent in 1940 to 30 percent in 1970. Because of the large increases in women in the labor force, men constituted smaller proportions in 1970 than in 1940, 53 as compared with 59.

In relation to the total labor force, changes between 1940 and 1970 were not so notable for nonwhite women, either in the nation or in the South. They increased from 3.5 to 4.8 percent of the work force in the nation and declined from 8.6 to 7.6 percent in the South. However, if we consider only the contribution of these women to the non-white labor force, we achieve another perspective. Sixty percent of the national increase in nonwhite workers was of women. In the South, however, all of the increase in nonwhite workers may be attributed to females; as noted earlier there was an actual decrease in the number of nonwhite male workers and in the proportion they constituted of the nonwhite labor force.

Labor Force Participation Rates by Color, Sex, and Age

In order to explore these matters more fully, we now turn to an examination of trends in labor force participation by age. Factors



associated with changes impinge differentially on new workers, those of established skills and achieved responsibility, and on people approaching the end of working life.

Here we will deal mainly with trends in labor force participation in the South with comparisons for the United States, for the four color-sex groups, for the period 1940 through 1970. The trends in labor force participation can readily be seen in the charts on page 6.

White Males

The configurations of the participation rates for Southern white males are roughly the same for the four points in time except at ages in which pursuance of higher education became the norm for World War II veterans and after 55. For older persons rates declined steadily between 1940 and 1970.

For some reason, labor force participation rates of young white males in the United States increased in the 1940-70 period rather than showing the decline that occurred in the South. Rates for older persons did not start to decline until after 1950.

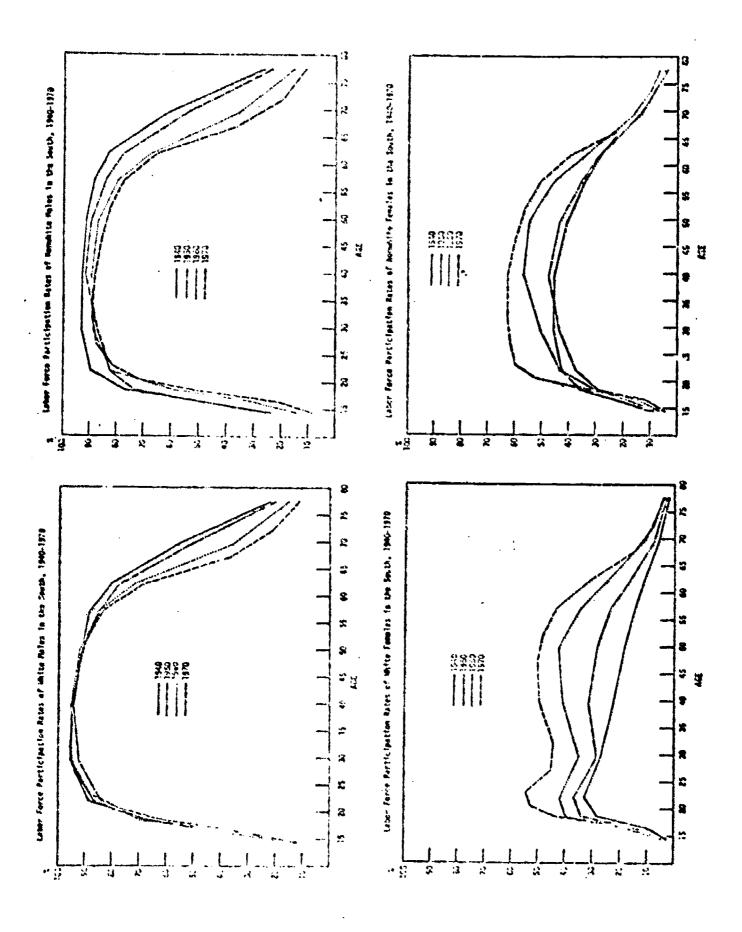
White Females

Patterns for the United States and the South are quite similar. The shape of the participation rate curves are noted for their double peaks since 1950, associated with employment prior and subsequent to child-bearing and early child rearing activities. There were increases in participation rates in all of the age groups over the 30 year period. A big rise occurred between 1950 and 1960 that was continued, for many ages, between 1960 and 1970; in some categories the largest increases came between 1960 and 1970. This is most notable among young women and is largely associated with declines in the birth rate. At the very oldest ages, rates remained about the same between 1960 and 1970.

Nonwhite Males

In considering these rates it should be noted that the 1970 data refer to Negroes rather than to nonwhites; since most of the nonwhite population of the South is Negro this does not affect the comparison of the rates particularly. There were very sharp relative declines between 1940 and 1970 in the labor force participation of young nonwhite males in both the South and the United States, and the rates for the two populations do not differ much. Declines also occurred among males in all the other age categories. For males in the retirement years, the rates have declined very sharply. The effects of reduced manpower requirements in agriculture, the lesser willingness of many black males to







accept menial or non-remunerative employment, the defeatist and discouraged attitudes associated with rejection, and outright discrimination, are often cited as primary factors in the reduced participation of black males in economic activities.

Nonwhite Females

The contours for nonwhite females have never included the two-peaked configuration noted for white females. In 1950 and 1960, rates were highest among middle-aged nonwhite women. The 1940 and 1970 patterns are the same, rising at age 20 and remaining at about the same level until age 50 when they begin to drop. Of course, the 1970 rates are considerably higher for ages 20-54 years in 1970 than they were in 1940.

Sources of Growth by Color, Sex, and Age

Differences in the patterns of population increase for age groups are affected by past changes in birth rates and immigration. Workers 20-34 in 1940, for example, come from the birth cohorts of 1905 through 1920 when fertility was still relatively high in comparison with recent decades. Workers of the same ages in 1950, come from the cohorts of 1915 through 1930 when birth rates were falling. Those in 1970 are from the cohorts of 1935 through 1950, a period of rising birth rates. The numbers available to the labor force also reflect fluctuations in foreign immigration prior and subsequent to the various immigration acts. Obviously, the relationships between the different age segments of the labor force change over time in response to birth ard death rates, and internal and foreign migration experiences, decades earlier. Foreign immigration had less impact on the South than some other parts of the country.

Time does not permit a detailed discussion here of the relative contribution of population and labor force participation rates to labor force growth or decline between 1940 and 1970 for each age-sex-color group. It is well known that with the exception of the age groups affected by the highest movement of nonwhites out of the South, all age groups increased in population in both the South and the rest of the nation. However, population growth has had differential impact on labor force changes in the South and non-South.

Where moderate increases in population were coupled with declines or low increases in participation rates, labor force increases were moderate (below the United States level) or there were fewer persons in the labor force in 1970 than in 1940. High population growth, accompanied by soaring participation rates (as among many age groups for white and for older non-white women) resulted in large relative increases in numbers in the labor force occurred. (Table 4)



Redistribution of Labor Force Among Age-Sex-Color Categories

The redistribution of the labor force that took place in the 30year period among the age categories can be very quickly summarized.

As a result of the contributory effects of population and participation rate changes: (1) the proportion that young people comprised of the labor force declined in each sex-color group, (2) among males, the proportion that old people comprised declined as well, for both whites and nonwhites, (3) only the young were smaller proportions of the labor force among white and nonwhite females. Concomitantly, of course, other age groups assumed larger proportions of the labor force in 1970 than in 1940.

If we look at the proportions that persons in the various agesex-color groups comprised of the total labor force in the South in 1970
as compared with 1940, it is evident that somewhat more of the economic
activities of the country stemming from participation in the labor force
is being assumed by white women, and to a lesser extent by nonwhite women in the middle and older years and middle aged white men. The South
was less dependent in 1970 than previously on nonwhite men, young and
old white males, and young nonwhite females.



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TABLE F. -- MARTE: CHARGES IN POPULATION, LABOR PORCE, AND LABOR PORCE PARTICIPATION BATE, POR PERSONE 14 TRAZE OLD AND OVER, 1246-70

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TOTAL	20,147,54	45,67, ,129	\$1.94	23,667,675	29,028,256	9,540,643	156.00	30.54	\$1.97	54.54	4.96	2.30
1000/6148 46148	23,170,243 7,613,326	37,734,597 8,127,332		11,570,640 4,040,815	10,714,372	\$,115,672 \$25,621	\$7.39	70.59	50.06	34.87 93.24	9.61	6.03 -1.29
MALE	14,994,130	81,977,786	44.54	11,966,800	15,090,741	3,732,141		31.19	71.80		-10.50	- 4.00
MANAGE TO SERVICE	13,601,650 3,374,665	16,704,474 3,771,323		9,120,297 2,744,363	13,293,210 2,403,471	4,072,973 - 340,932	43.60	44.17 -13.41	79.47 80.86	73.01	• 8.13 •21.14	- 4.43 - 3.35
PROLE	19,187,244	23,894,143	27.32	3,780,873	9,329,437	5,408,943	40.04	130.73	*4.50	27.04	37.33	24.63
mot-rile selle	11,560,013 3,618,621	19,947,921 6,346,222		2,378,303 1,342,312	7,421,042 1,904,355	3,043,699 565,643		\$17.07 63.15	20.54 37.10	27.94 43.92	H.43	30.27 3-69

Semec's: B. S. Sureau of the Conque, 1940 Conque of Completion, The Labor Force, Chipsed States States Labor 112, Part 1, Table 2; W. S. Sureau of Commun. 1870 Caseus of Parulation, Secreta Secreta Secretal Secretarian Sec

TABLE RA. --- GOSTE: PERCENTAGE CHARGE IN LANCE FORCE STORAGE FOR CHARGE IN POPERATION, LABOR FORCE PARTICULATION BATE, AND THESE INTERACTION

OKAL AND MX	PERCENTACE CHANCE IN LARGE FUNCE 1940-70	PENCENTAGE CHANGE EX POPULATION	FENCINTAGE CRANGE IN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPA- TION RATE	SMIFARCTION BE- THIN CHANGES IN POPELATION AND EASIN FORCE PARTICIPATION BATE	PERLENTAGE CHANGE IN LABOR FORCE 1940-70	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN POPULATION	PERCENTACE ENANGE IN LANGE FORCE PARTICIPA- TION MATE	INTERACTION BE- THEE CHARLE IN POPULATION ALD LABOR FUNCE PARTICIPATION RASI
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BOCAL	\$0.54	31.96	4.50	1.54	100.00	87.30	8.30	4.35
Markette Mette	78.59 5.30	62.94 15.74	\$.41 - 8.45	6.03 ~ 1.39	100.90 100.06	80.09 384.18	12.23 -160.91	7.10 -23.27
MALE	31.19	44.54	-19.30	- 4.89	190.06	149.26	- 33.44	-35.44
ronyti er raile	44.17 - 12.41	56.93 11.09	- 8.13 -21.16	- 4,67 - 3,38	100.00 (-100.00)	227.34 87.36	- 18.19 -470.34	~18.36 ~16.94
12MTE	150.73	\$7.33	\$4.33	34.03	180.00	54.02	39.34	11.10
MITE MANASTE	217.01 41.15	64.67 80.11	84.63 28.34	\$6.37 3.69	140.00 100.00	32.52 47.71	39.93 43.36	27.53 6.75

BOUNCE: Table 2.

Periodias Periodias Change in Labor Ferce + Percentage Change in Population + Percentage Change in Labor Ferce Perticipation Rate + (Percentage Change in Pepulation) & (Percentage Change in Labor Ferce Perticipation Rate)



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	(1)	(3)	(2)	(4)	(3)	_(0)	<u> </u>	(5)	(16)	<u>un</u>	<u>uv</u>
DEFAL	70,172,357	163,576,040	46.18	37,216,893	57,869,275	30,550,470	100.00 55.23	52.42	55.80	4.15	7.84
METAR METAR	68,203,237 2,368,920	\$4,701.116 8,821,124		13,774,040 1,902,743	\$3,005,763 4,863,530	\$7,329,70: 3,360,76	3 43.68 48.15 5 16.32 123.64	52.46 \$6.30	55.97 25.23	+.69 - 3.76	2.64 -14.62
MALE	33,947,501	47,507,918	30,26	17,963.200	34,277,973	#,3#5,72	2 40.72 29.94	78.73	73.44	- 6.45	- 2.45
WITE BOOK ITE	34,254,938	45,172,016		24,987.643 1,004,557	33,416,142 2,741,780	6.628.50 1.757.32		78.78 77.72		- 5.93 -14.00	- 1.43 -30.73
FRALE	35,224,654	\$4,027,142	53.36	4,264,603	21,491,393	12,304,74	e 59.27 131.43	36.34	79.7%	50.41	27.17
87/40 27146400	23,944,307 2,276,348	49,337,400 4, 68 9,242		8,788.417 498.28 6	19,309,023 2,161,750		6 51.69 120.83 3 7.79 321.47	2\$. 6 9 24.03	29.50 44.83		27.48 39.45

SCHOOLS: Compared from data in " here I and I.

TABLE 20. -- BON-SOUTH: PERCENTAGE CHARGE DE LABOR POICE STRUTHS FRUNCHARLES IN POPULATION, LABOR PORCE PARTICIPATION BATE, AND THEIR INTERACTION.

MX OKOR NO	POLOCIFIAME CHANCE IN LABOR FORCE 1940-70	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN POHILATION	PENCENTAGE CHARGE IN LABOR FURCE PARTICIPA- TIGH BATE	INTERACTION SE- TULES CRANCES IN BUPLILATION AND LANCE FORCE PARTICUSATION RATE	FUNCTIONAGE CHANCE IN LABOR FORCE 1940-70	PERCENTAGE CHANCE IN POPULATION	PERCYPTAGE CHANGE IN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPA- TION BATE	interaction be- their chaose in population and labor force participation ratio
	····		CTAL PATES.			(CONTEST	ed to presidentie	N1)
MTAL.	55.11	44.78	4.33	1.84	100,00	83.80	13.10	5,14
PITTE ETIMBON	48.15 273.64	38.86 263.38	6.69 - 3.76	2.60 -14.02	700.00 100.00	\$0.71 106.83	15.66 - 2.38	9.40 - 6.27
MALT	39.94	29.26	- 6.69	- 2.83	100.00	131.04	-#2.33	- 8,70
MATE TYPE	24.36 174.93	32.45 219.66	- 5.93 -14.00	~ 3.93 ~30.75	106.90 160.00	132.13 125.57	-14,13 - 0.00	- 7.66 -17.54
FRALE	131.42	32.34	50.92	27.27	140,00	40.60	38.18	20.67
TTIME TTIMESON	170.43	~5.32 267.39	55.82 14.82	23.48 38,65	180.00 100.00	37.37 63.07	42.94 4.43	19,44 33,32

SOCREE TABLE 3.

PROTESTED : Percentage Giunge in Labor Force « Parcentage Change in Femiliation » Executage Change in Labor Perce Perceptage Change in Population) % (Percentage Change in Labor Force Participation ReceVIO).



13

TABLE 4-Participation Rate, Population and Labor Force, South, 1940-1970

Race	and Age	Change in L. F. Part. Rate (Pct.)	Change in Population (Pct.)	Interaction (Pct.)	Change in Labor Forc (Pct.)
iale:					
White	20-24	~ 5.67	50.24	- 2.65	41.68
	25-34	- 0.91	24.36	- 0.22	23.26
	35-44	0.91	41.35	0.03	41.95
	45-54	- 1.16	72.57	- 0.34	70.59
	55-64	- 9.62	99.32	- 9.55	80.14
	ó5−74	- 45.25	112.76	- 51.02	16.40
	75 and over		207.85	- 98.62	61.96
Nonwhite	20-24	- 13.60	- 4.94	0.67	-17.89
	25-34	- 4.92	-23.50	1.16	-27.29
	35-44	- 5.19	-13.19	9.63	-17.69
	45-54	- 7.7 8	11.20	- 0.87	2.53
	55-64	- 17.33	58.13	- 10.07	30.73
	65-74	- 51.30	45.86	- 23.53	-28.94
	75 and over	- 57.96	135.56	- 78.60	- 1.10
emale					
White	20-24	63.70	46.26	29.47	141.11
	25-34	6 7.13	24.00	16.11	103.76
	35-44	122.04	46.80	57.11	228.32
	45-54	165.43	\$8.99	.149.89	410.90
	55-64	136.52	132.00	246.21	567.37
	ΰ5 −74	100.00	179.23	179.23	431.53
	75 and over	103.00	332.19	358.77	823.39
Nonwh1te		37.71	- 5.38	- 1.92	30.70
	25-34	42.46	-19.41	- 8.24	14.31
	35-44	33.28	- 3.35	- 1.23	33.63
	45-54	43.33	31.90	13.82	89.17
	55-64	41.03	103.12	42.31	166.43
	65-74	0.12	100.39	0.12	100.69
	75 and over	35.00	187.95	65.78	239.37

SOURCE: Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Vol. III, The Labor Force, Occupation, Industry, Employment and Income, Part 1, U. S. Summary, Table 5, U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC (1)-D1, Table 287.

