

Alabama Population Change:



With Emphasis on
the Last Half Century
(1920-1970)

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION / AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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ALABAMA POPULATION CHANGE: with *Emphasis* on the *Last Half Century* (1920-1970)*

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INTRODUCTION

THE PRINCIPAL RESOURCES of any geographic area be it a rural community, city, county, or nation, are its people.

People are not inanimate materials like land, water, minerals; instead they are persons capable of varying types of behavior. Population changes result from the social behavior of many people. A reflection of human social behavior over time is provided by population statistics.

Population change can occur only as a result of an increase or decrease in the number of people following a particular pattern of social behavior. Some types of change might include families having more children, the movement of families from farms to cities, or the number of people living beyond retirement age. All of these changes, as well as others, have sociological relevance because they indicate the dynamic character of society in which the human behavior patterns of today differ from those that prevailed yesterday. Knowledge of such changes and trends is prerequisite to arriving at meaningful predictions of future population size and societal needs. Because of this, population statistics are basic data in the creation and fulfillment of all types of action and planning programs at local, state, and national levels.

* This report represents a continuation of research originated under State Research Project 1-028 entitled "Alabama's Population: Characteristics and Change" and continued under State Research Project 1-045 entitled "Characteristics of and Changes in Alabama's Population."

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Published reports which systematically review the historical changes and trends of Alabama's people have been few and far between.¹ In this context, the purpose of the present report is: (1) to provide a broad overview of changes in the Alabama population since founding of the State in 1819, and (2) to describe in detail selected major population trends which have occurred in Alabama during the last half century.² Wherever possible, these trends will be shown for both racial (white and nonwhite) and residential (rural and urban) components of the population. Consideration of changes in the number, distribution, and characteristics of Alabama's people from 1920 to 1970 should provide data on past trends most likely to affect future planning activities for the State and its political and economic subdivisions.

ALABAMA POPULATION GROWTH

Alabama was organized as the twenty-second state in the Union in 1819. The first census enumeration of the State as a separate statistical unit occurred in the decennial census 2 years later. At that time, 127,901 persons resided within the borders of the State, Table 1. The ensuing 150 years have been marked by continuous population growth both in the actual number of Alabamians and in the density of the population. In 1820, Alabama was very sparsely settled with only 2.5 persons per square mile. One hundred years later the density was 46 persons and by 1970 (50 years later) there were 67.5 persons per square mile living in the State.

The number of persons added to the State's population per decade hit its peak between 1890-1900. During that period an increase of 315,296 additional residents was reported. On the other hand, the smallest increase for any decade occurred in 1860-1870, when, as a result of the Civil War and its aftermath, an increase of only 32,791 persons occurred.

Despite the increasing size of the Alabama population, growth has lagged behind that occurring in the United States as a whole. Only twice in its 150-year history has the State's decennial growth rate exceeded that of the nation and these times were both during the State's earliest history, Table 2. In the past 50 years, only

¹ See Lillian Worley, *Alabama's People* (University, Alabama: U of A Bureau of Public Administration, 1945) for an early overview. For a more recent discussion of selected changes, see *Alabama's Population: Her Changing Face, 1930-1972*, published by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Special Services Administration (Division of Vital Statistics, 1974).

² For comparisons of the 1970 Alabama data with those for the U.S., see Appendix A, Tables 1-4.

TABLE 1. SIZE AND DENSITY OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION, 1820-1970

Census year	Population	Density per
	size	square mile
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
1820.....	127,901	2.5
1830.....	309,527	6.1
1840.....	590,756	11.5
1850.....	771,623	15.1
1860.....	964,201	18.9
1870.....	996,992	19.5
1880.....	1,262,505	24.7
1890.....	1,513,401	29.6
1900.....	1,828,697	35.8
1910.....	2,138,093	41.9
1920.....	2,348,174	46.0
1930.....	2,646,248	51.8
1940.....	2,832,961	55.5
1950.....	3,061,743	59.9
1960.....	3,266,740	64.0
1970.....	3,444,165	67.5

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary: 1970 PC(1)-1A, Table 8.*

once (1930-1940) has the State growth rate approached that of the nation. This occurrence was largely caused by the retarded out-migration marking the depression years. Between 1960 and 1970, the U.S. experienced a population growth of 13.3 percent while Alabama increased by only 5.4 percent.

TABLE 2. DECENNIAL RATES OF CHANGE IN THE POPULATION OF THE U.S., THE SOUTH, AND ALABAMA, 1820-1970

Decade	Percent change		
	U.S.	South*	Alabama
	<i>Pct.</i>	<i>Pct.</i>	<i>Pct.</i>
1820-1830.....	33.5	29.2	142.0
1830-1840.....	32.7	21.8	90.9
1840-1850.....	35.9	29.2	30.6
1850-1860.....	35.6	23.9	25.0
1860-1870.....	22.6	10.4	3.4
1870-1880.....	30.2	34.4	26.6
1880-1890.....	25.5	21.3	19.9
1890-1900.....	21.0	22.4	20.8
1900-1910.....	21.0	19.8	16.9
1910-1920.....	15.0	12.7	9.8
1920-1930.....	16.2	14.3	12.7
1930-1940.....	7.3	10.1	7.1
1940-1950.....	14.5	13.3	8.1
1950-1960.....	18.5	16.5	6.7
1960-1970.....	13.3	14.2	5.4

* The South as a region includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, and the District of Columbia.

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary: 1970 PC(1)-1A, Table 9.*

During its early years of statehood, Alabama's rate of growth exceeded that occurring in the southern region.³ Since 1860, however, the growth rate in the State has not kept pace. During the last half century, the average population increase per decennial census in the South was 13.6 percent. This figure nearly equaled the national rate of 13.9 percent for the same period. But in Alabama, the comparable average was only 8.0 percent. Although Alabama's population is increasing, it is doing so at a much slower pace than is true of either the nation or the region.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION (1820-1970)

Spatial arrangement of the State population has undergone significant change over the past 150 years. According to census data for 1820, the State was totally rural in residential composition, Table 3. There were no incorporated towns in existence that had as many as 2,500 inhabitants. Growth of urban places occurred only gradually until the decade of the 1880's when the number almost tripled from 7 to 19. At the turn of the century,

TABLE 3. RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION, 1820-1970

Census year	Urban				Rural		
	Number of places*	Population	Percent	Rate of change	Population	Percent	Rate of change
		No.	Pct.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Pct.
1820.....	---	---	---	---	127,901	100.0	---
1830.....	1	3,194	1.0	---	306,333	99.0	139.5
1840.....	1	12,672	2.1	296.7	578,084	97.9	88.7
1850.....	4	35,179	4.6	177.6	736,444	95.4	27.4
1860.....	5	48,901	5.1	39.0	915,300	94.9	24.3
1870.....	7	62,700	6.3	28.2	934,292	93.7	2.1
1880.....	7	68,518	5.4	9.3	1,193,987	94.6	27.8
1890.....	19	152,235	10.1	122.2	1,361,166	89.9	14.0
1900.....	27	216,714	11.9	42.4	1,611,983	88.1	18.4
1910.....	28	370,431	17.3	70.9	1,767,662	82.7	9.7
1920.....	39	509,317	21.7	37.5	1,838,857	78.3	4.0
1930.....	53	744,273	28.1	46.1	1,901,975	71.9	3.4
1940.....	59	855,941	30.2	15.0	1,977,020	69.8	3.9
1950.....	85	1,340,937	43.8	56.7	1,720,806	56.2	-13.0
1960.....	109	1,791,721	54.8	33.6	1,475,019	45.2	-14.3
1970.....	123	2,011,941	58.4	12.3	1,432,224	41.6	-2.9

* Prior to 1950, only incorporated places in excess of 2,500 inhabitants were considered urban. Beginning in 1950 unincorporated places in excess of 2,500 were also considered urban. See figure 2 for the effect of this change in definition.

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary: 1970 PC (1) 1A, Table 18.*

³ See footnote to Table 2 for the states included in this census region.

the 27 urban places then existing accounted for almost 12 percent of the total population. The greatest numerical increase in the number of urban places took place between 1940 and 1950, when the State gained 26 new urban places. This increase was partially attributable to a change in definition of "urban" which included, for the first time, unincorporated places of 2,500 or more, Figure 1. Nevertheless the major reason for this increase was due simply to the growth of the population during the decade. By 1970, more than 58 percent of the Alabama population was living in 123 urban places.

As the 20th Century commenced, a new era in the residential composition of the State's population made itself felt. Until then the rural population had increased at a rate rapid enough to overshadow the steady loss of rural people through out-migration. Most of the migrants had been drawn to industrializing cities in the North as the mechanization of agriculture reduced employment opportunities in rural areas. However, with the turn of the

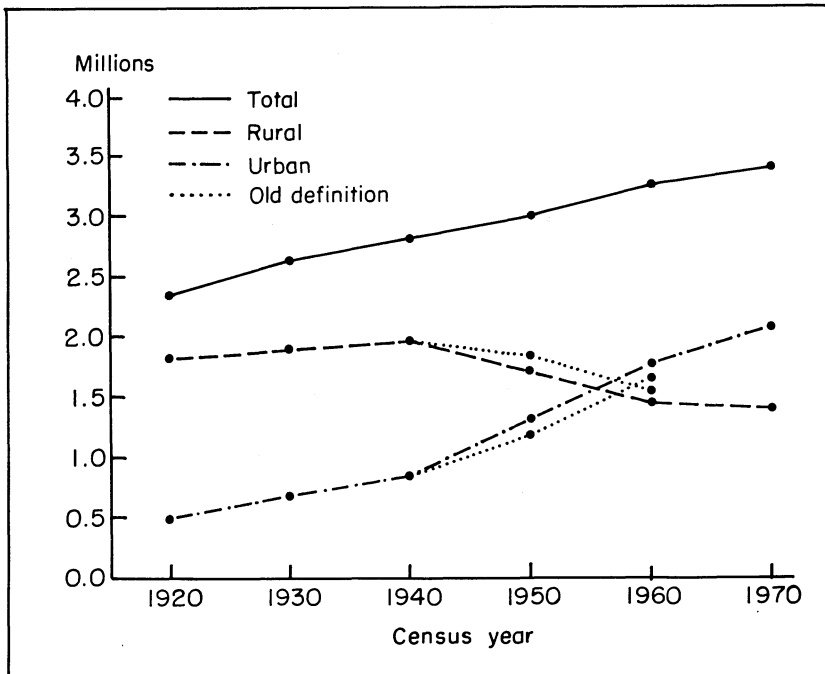


FIG. 1. Rural and urban trends in the Alabama population for 1920-1970, showing the effect of the change in urban definition, 1940-1960.

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ALABAMA RURAL POPULATION BY NONFARM AND FARM, 1920-1970

Census year	Total rural population	Rural nonfarm		Rural farm	
		Population	Percent	Population	Percent
1920.....	1,838,857	504,344	27.4	1,334,513	72.6
1930.....	1,901,975	565,566	29.7	1,336,409	70.3
1940.....	1,977,020	638,356	32.3	1,338,664	67.7
1950.....	1,720,806	760,313	44.2	960,493	55.8
1960*	1,471,571	1,068,716	72.6	402,855	27.4
1970*	1,431,160	1,272,797	88.9	158,363	11.1

* The total rural populations in these two censuses were based on samples and consequently are less than reported in Table 3.

Sources: U.S. *Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC(1)-D2, Table 138; 1960 PC(1)-2D, Table 96; 1950 P-B2, Table 13; 1940 Second Series, Table 1.

century an increasing proportion of these rural migrants began moving to urban places in the South. As a result of this changed migration pattern, an accelerated decline in the growth rate for the rural population occurred while a high rate of population gain continued in urban areas.

There were 1,611,983 rural residents in Alabama in 1900, who comprised 88 percent of the total population. During the ensuing 40 years, only about 365,000 more persons were added to the rural population until the peak number was reached in 1940. Meanwhile, the urban population increased by almost 640,000 persons, nearly twice as many. Since 1940, the number of rural residents in the State has declined by nearly 28 percent while urban residents have increased by 74 percent, Table 4.

The decline in Alabama's rural population has occurred chiefly because of the reduction in the number of rural farm residents. In the last half century, this group, which once represented nearly three quarters of the State's rural population, has dwindled so that by 1970, it comprised only 11 percent of Alabama's rural residents. On the other hand, the number of rural non-farm residents has more than doubled in the 50-year period.

RACIAL COMPOSITION (1890-1970)

Distinct changes have occurred in the racial composition of the Alabama population during the past 80 years. No separate census reporting of the racial distribution was made prior to 1890. Since then, the data have shown that the patterns of population change differ considerably between the races and that these differences, although changing, have persisted into the present.

The number of whites residing in Alabama has more than tripled after 1890. The increase has been from 833,718 to 2,535,823

TABLE 5. RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION, 1890-1970

Census year	State total	White	Nonwhite	Percent distribution	
				White	Nonwhite
	No.	No.	No.	Pct.	Pct.
1890.....	1,513,041	833,718	679,683	55.1	44.9
1900.....	1,828,697	1,001,152	827,545	54.7	45.3
1910.....	2,138,093	1,228,832	909,261	57.5	42.5
1920.....	2,348,174	1,447,032	901,142	61.6	38.4
1930.....	2,646,248	1,700,844	945,404	64.3	35.7
1940.....	2,832,961	1,849,097	983,864	65.3	34.7
1950.....	3,061,743	2,079,591	982,152	67.9	32.1
1960.....	3,266,740	2,283,609	983,131	69.9	30.1
1970.....	3,444,165	2,535,823	908,342	73.6	26.4

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1960 PC (1) 2B, Table 15 and 1970 PC (1) C2, Table 45.

white persons compared to a rather small increase of about one-third in the population of nonwhites. The actual number of nonwhites in the State was 679,683 in 1890 compared to 908,342, in 1970, Table 5. Whereas, nonwhites comprised nearly half (45 percent) of the population 80 years ago, they now account for only one-fourth of all Alabama residents.

The number of whites reported in each census since 1890 has consistently increased; but this has not been true for nonwhites in the State. The largest number of nonwhites was reported in 1940. Between 1940-1970, the nonwhite population was reduced by over 75,000 people. Moreover, the number of nonwhites lost in the last decade alone amounted to almost as many as in the previous three decades combined.⁴

Trends by Residence and Race (1920-1970)

Two highly significant patterns emerge when analyzing population trends for Alabama: (1) the decline in the rural population, and (2) the decline in the nonwhite population. In keeping with the focus of this report on population changes of the last half century, it is important to review these two major trends simultaneously for insights they might provide into the nature of the changes that have taken place and into the trends suggested for the future.

During the last 50 years, the racial composition of the rural and urban areas has exhibited a consistent pattern of change,

⁴ See Division of Vital Statistics' publication cited in footnote 1 for discussion of migration in Alabama.

TABLE 6. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF ALABAMA POPULATION BY RESIDENCE AND RACE, 1920-1970

Census year	Urban			Rural		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	<i>Percent</i>					
1920	21.7	61.3	38.7	78.3	61.7	38.3
1930	28.1	63.9	36.1	71.9	64.4	35.6
1940	30.2	63.1	36.9	69.8	66.2	33.8
1950	43.8	66.1	33.9	56.2	69.3	30.7
1960	54.8	69.0	31.0	45.2	71.0	29.0
1970	58.4	71.8	28.2	41.6	76.0	23.9

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 48; 1960 PC (1) 2B, Table 14; 1940 Second Series, Table 5.

Table 6. The percentage of whites in rural Alabama has always been slightly higher than that in urban areas and correspondingly, the inverse has been true for nonwhites. In 1920, the white-nonwhite ratio in urban and rural areas was about equal at 61 to 39 percent respectively. By 1970, this racial makeup in both areas had been significantly altered. A decline in the proportion of nonwhites had occurred in both rural and urban areas, but the decline had been more rapid in rural than in urban locations.

A closer look at rural areas analyzing the racial composition by farm and nonfarm residence reveals that this decline in the rural nonwhite population has been heaviest from farms, Table 7. The magnitude of the decline was nearly 20 percent for nonwhite farm residents from 1920 to 1970 compared to only 13 percent for other nonwhite rural residents. It is apparent from these trends that nonwhites in the State are leaving the rural areas. In contrast, the proportion of the farm population comprised of whites has risen from 61 percent in 1920 to 81 percent in 1970. Farming in Alabama is gradually becoming a white industry.

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF ALABAMA POPULATION FOR RURAL AREAS BY RACE, 1920-1970

Census year	Farm		Nonfarm	
	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite
	<i>Percent</i>			
1920	61.4	38.6	62.5	37.5
1930	62.8	37.2	68.2	31.8
1940	64.3	35.7	70.3	29.7
1950	66.8	33.2	72.5	27.5
1960	69.0	31.0	71.9	28.1
1970	80.6	19.4	75.6	24.4

Source: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 48; 1960 PC (1)-2B, Table 14; 1940 Second Series, Table 5.

In summary, it can be stated that the population of Alabama, since the first census was taken in 1820, has experienced significant change in its numbers and distribution. Although the number of residents in the State has increased markedly, the fact remains that Alabama's growth has not kept pace with the nation as a whole nor with the South as a region. Two major trends that have occurred involved its transition from a sparsely settled rural frontier to an increasingly urbanized state, and the decline in the size and proportion of its nonwhite population, particularly in rural areas compared to the growth in the number and proportion of the white population. Since the rural-urban and the white-nonwhite dimensions of the population have exhibited such distinctive patterns, the changes reported in the remainder of this report will, where data are available, give special consideration to these racial and residential patterns.

A HALF CENTURY OF SPECIFIC CHANGES

There are numerous population characteristics for which information is provided by the census. A discussion of these characteristics and the changes which have occurred with regards to each during a specific time period could go on indefinitely. In the present instance, the six characteristics selected for scrutiny in this report are considered by most demographers to be of primary importance. The trends exhibited by the characteristics of age, fertility, education, labor force, industrial composition, and occupation type are significant in providing insight into what the future might hold for Alabama and its people.

Age Structure

Alabama began the last 50 years as a relatively "young" state by national standards. Whereas the national median age was 25.3 years in 1920, the median age for the State was only 20.3 years, Table 8. The national median increased to a high of 30.2 years

TABLE 8. MEDIAN AGE IN ALABAMA AND U.S., 1920-1970

Census year	U.S.	Alabama
	<i>Median</i>	
1920.....	25.3	20.3
1930.....	26.4	21.5
1940.....	29.0	23.8
1950.....	30.2	25.5
1960.....	29.5	26.0
1970.....	28.3	27.0

Source: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC (1) B2, Table 21.

in 1950 and then declined to the 1970 level of 28.3 years. The trend in the median age of Alabamians experienced no such fluctuation; instead the median age increased steadily over the last half century. By 1970, the median age had reached a level of 27.1 years which was only slightly younger than that of the nation. This "aging" of the population was the result of a number of phenomena including an increased life span, decreased infant mortality, better health care, and selective migration.

Indication that the population has "aged" appreciably in recent decades is discernible from the median age, but this "aging" process is even more vivid when viewed in terms of changes for various age groups, Table 9. The last half century has seen the number of persons over 50 years of age double or more than double in each 5-year age grouping. Similarly, all groups over 40 now comprise a larger proportion of the total population than they did in 1920. The number of persons 65 years old and older has more than tripled from 83,498 to 325,961. This is an increase of 290 percent in 50 years. Persons in these later years currently represent 9.4 percent of Alabama's citizens while those under 5 have increased by less than 1 percent and in 1970 represented only 8.7 percent of the State's population.

TABLE 9. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS, 1920-1970*

Age groups	Census years						Increase 1920-1970**
	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	
	<i>Percent</i>						
Less than 5.....	12.8	11.9	10.5	12.4	12.0	8.7	.5
5-9.....	13.6	12.5	10.7	10.7	11.3	10.1	9.1
10-14.....	12.8	11.5	11.1	9.6	10.7	10.8	24.2
15-19.....	10.4	11.1	10.6	8.7	8.6	9.9	39.5
20-24.....	9.0	9.8	9.2	7.9	6.4	8.0	30.0
25-29.....	7.7	7.9	8.6	7.7	6.0	6.3	20.0
30-34.....	6.2	6.2	7.4	7.0	6.3	5.5	32.2
35-39.....	6.4	6.2	6.6	7.1	6.4	5.4	24.0
40-44.....	4.7	4.9	5.3	6.3	6.0	5.7	76.5
45-49.....	5.0	5.2	4.9	5.3	5.8	5.6	65.0
50-54.....	3.4	4.0	4.2	4.4	5.1	5.2	125.1
55-59.....	2.3	2.8	3.3	3.6	4.3	4.9	211.5
60-64.....	2.2	2.1	2.6	2.9	3.3	4.3	195.7
65-69.....	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.8	3.1	3.5	241.4
70-74.....	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.5	258.4
75 and older.....	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.7	3.4	396.1

* See Appendix B for number in each group.

** This figure represents the percentage change in the absolute number of people in a particular age group in 1970 as compared to 1920.

Source: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC(1)-B2, Table 21.

What this age change has involved can be seen best in the population pyramid which shows the large increase in the proportion of older people in the State and the corresponding reduction in the proportion of young, Figure 2. It may also be observed that in 1970 a larger number of women than men comprised these older age levels. These trends are important for state planners. Adequate provision of a wide range of services from projecting school enrollments in anticipation of capital outlay needs to the development of training programs for the medical profession which must prepare itself for the services required by an older population require knowledge of such trends.

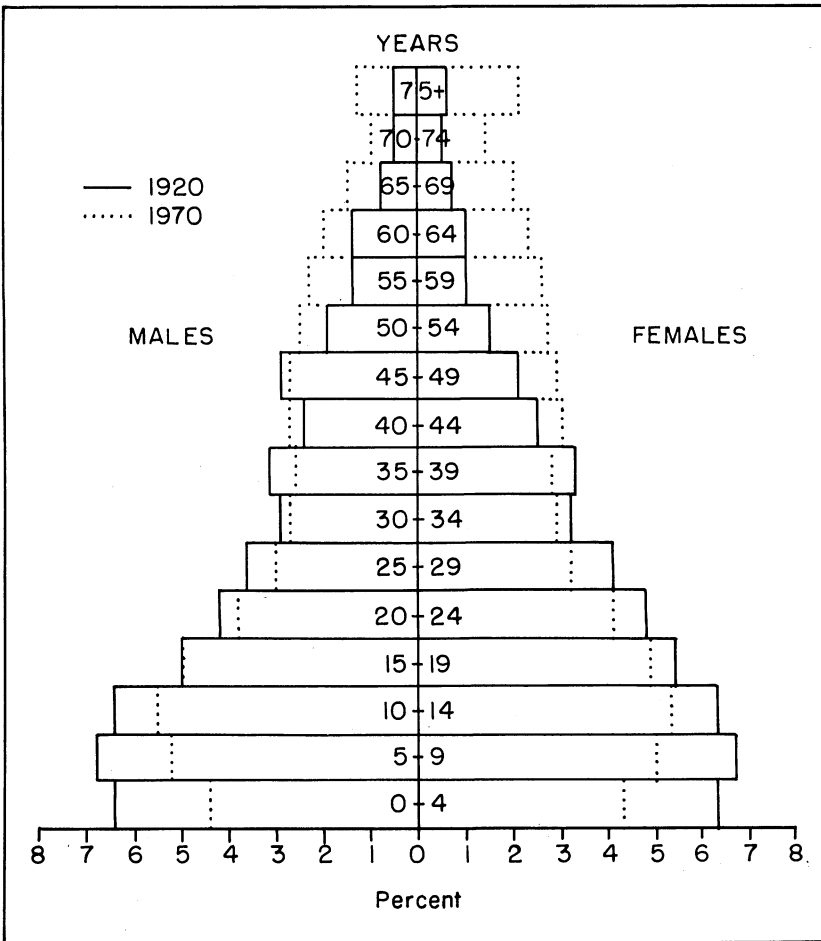


FIG. 2. Population pyramids for Alabama, 1920 and 1970.

TABLE 10. MEDIAN AGE IN ALABAMA BY RESIDENCE, 1920-1970

Census year	Total	Urban	Rural	
			Nonfarm	Farm
			<i>Median</i>	
1920.....	20.3	*	*	*
1930.....	21.5	25.4	22.5	18.8
1940.....	23.8	27.7	24.3	20.6
1950.....	25.5	27.8	24.7	21.5
1960.....	29.5	26.9	24.2	26.1
1970.....	27.0	27.1	26.0	33.2

* Median age not available on this basis.

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 48; 1960 PC (1)-2C, Table 17; 1950 P-B2, Table 15.

Age by Residence. Since 1930, the trend in Alabama has been for a higher percentage of the people to be older. This aging of the population has been consistent in rural and urban areas alike, but the intensity of the process has not been the same in both. The median age of urban residents through 1960 had always been higher than that of either rural farm or nonfarm residents, Table 10. During the decade of the 1960's, this pattern was broken when the median age of rural farm residents climbed dramatically, reaching an all-time high of 33 years—7 years older than it had been at the beginning of the decade. The median age of the rural farm population was now 6 years older than that of urban and 7 years older than that of rural nonfarm residents.

It seems reasonable to anticipate that this aging trend for the rural farm population will continue in future decades barring any major change in domestic policies. A longer life and fewer children per family should continue to cause the median age to rise. In fact it is likely that this pattern will accelerate as many farm youth continue to migrate to urban areas in search of educational and employment opportunities. Moreover, as the median age of the farm population increases, there is less likelihood of parenthood, thereby accelerating this trend.

Age by Race. Changes in the age structure of the State population have not occurred at the same rate for all Alabamians, Table 11. While the direction of the trend has been the same for whites and nonwhites, the intensity has been noticeably different. In 1920, the median age for both races was approximately the same—20.1 for whites and 20.4 for nonwhites. However, by 1970, the median age for whites had increased to 28.8 years

TABLE 11. MEDIAN AGE IN ALABAMA BY RACE AND SEX, 1920-1970

State	Total	Male	Female
	Median		
1920	20.3	20.2	20.3
1930	21.5	21.4	21.7
1940	23.8	23.6	24.0
1950	25.5	25.0	25.9
1960	26.0	24.7	27.1
1970	27.0	25.4	28.5
White			
1920	20.1	20.2	20.0
1930	21.6	21.5	21.6
1940	24.4	24.3	24.6
1950	26.7	26.4	27.0
1960	28.2	27.3	29.1
1970	28.8	27.4	30.1
Nonwhite			
1920	20.4	20.3	20.5
1930	21.5	21.1	21.8
1940	22.7	22.2	23.1
1950	22.7	21.7	23.5
1960	20.3	18.9	22.1
1970	21.5	19.6	23.4

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC (1)-B2, Table 21.*

which was considerably older than that for nonwhites which had increased only to 21.5 years.

Analysis by race and sex reveals the distinctiveness of age differences and that they are sex-race linked. Women in the Alabama population have a higher median age than the men and whites have a higher median age than the nonwhites. During the 50-year period, the median age has increased for all race-sex groupings except nonwhite males. For white females, it has climbed 10 years to 30 years of age. A smaller rise of 3 years occurred for nonwhite females. Similar differences were found for males. The median age of white males had increased by 7 years to between 27 and 28 years of age. In contrast, however, the median age of nonwhite males declined by almost 1 year to less than 20 years of age. Part of this change is the result of more Alabamians living to be older. It is also the result of selective migration out of the State. Young men of both races are more likely than young women to leave the State, and nonwhites of both sexes are more likely to migrate elsewhere than are whites.

Clearly the Alabama population has aged, but the change has not had the same impact on all segments of the population. In

general, males are younger than females, nonwhites are younger than whites, and rural residents are older than urban residents.

Dependency. One demographic technique for assessing trends in the age structure of an area is to analyze the dependency ratio. This measure is a rough approximation of the economic self-sufficiency of a population based on the number of people who are less than 15 and over 65 years of age in relation to the number 15 to 65 years of age. It assumes, in general, that these dependent classes do not make significant inputs into the economy. They are typically "dependent" upon others in the population for the majority of their economic support.

The dependency ratio in Alabama has fluctuated considerably during the past 50 years, Table 12. It was at its lowest point of 591 dependent persons for each 1,000 persons of working age in 1940 at the end of the depression era. At present, dependency is at the same level of approximately 650 which has marked three of the six most recent census periods.

Urban areas currently have a lower dependency ratio (610) than rural areas (688). This situation has prevailed throughout the last half century. Although the present dependency ratio for whites is considerably lower by 250 persons per 1,000 than that for nonwhites in the State, this has not always been the case. In both 1920 and 1930, the white dependency ratio exceeded that of the nonwhites.

The composition of the dependency ratio has been altered also between 1920 and 1970. Fifty years ago, this rate was influenced most strongly by the younger age groups as 39.2 percent of the population was under 15 and only 3.5 percent was 65 and

TABLE 12. DEPENDENCY RATIOS FOR ALABAMA BY RESIDENCE AND BY RACE, 1920-1970

Census year	State	Residence		Race	
		Urban	Rural	White	Nonwhite
-----Ratio*-----					
1920.....	743	485	831	762	712
1930.....	656	516	718	670	632
1940.....	591	420	678	566	640
1950.....	644	523	752	598	750
1960.....	722	675	783	649	920
1970.....	642	610	688	582	834

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC (1)-B2, Table 20; 1960 PC (1)-2B, Table 16; 1940 Volume 4, Tables 7a, 7b.

* Dependency Ratio = $\frac{\text{No. Less than 15 years} + \text{No. 65 years and older}}{\text{No. 15 to 65 years}} \times 1000$

over. The "aging" process discussed earlier is distinctly reflected in the fact that in 1970, 29.6 percent of the population was under 15 and the number 65 and over had reached 9.4 percent.

Changes in the age structure of an area have implications for the future in a number of ways. One important consideration is its meaning for the economic structure. If the median age of a State's population is increasing, and the number of people in the younger age groups is decreasing, then the question arises as to who will provide the labor necessary to maintain high levels of productivity. Even more important is the question of where will the future labor force come from. At the same time, programs to provide for Alabama's elderly in their retirement years fall primarily on the working age population.

Fertility

A major factor affecting the potential of a state for growth is the fertility of its female population in the child bearing ages. The fertility ratio, which describes statistically the relationship between two segments of the population — those in the first 5 years of life compared to the number of women in the population of child bearing age (15 through 44 years) is currently the lowest it has been in Alabama during the past five decades, Table 13.

TABLE 13. ALABAMA FERTILITY RATIOS FOR RURAL AND URBAN AREAS BY RACE, 1920-1970

Census year	Race	State	Urban	Rural
			Ratio*	
1920	Total	549	342	622
	White	604	399	674
	Nonwhite	468	265	543
1930	Total	492	325	575
	White	522	354	602
	Nonwhite	443	281	530
1940	Total	425	270	510
	White	418	275	491
	Nonwhite	437	263	548
1950	Total	536	454	616
	White	503	432	568
	Nonwhite	607	495	733
1960	Total	584	557	622
	White	515	499	537
	Nonwhite	758	696	856
1970	Total	415	385	461
	White	380	354	417
	Nonwhite	519	468	615

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC (1)-B2, Table 20; 1960 PC (1)-2B, Table 16; 1950 P-B2, Table 15; 1930 Composition of the Population, Table 3.

$$* \text{ Fertility} = \frac{\text{Persons 0-4 years of age}}{\text{Women 15-44 years of age}} \times 1000$$

Traditionally, this ratio has been higher in rural than in urban areas, and for the past 30 years has been higher among nonwhites than whites in the State. The most significant fact about the fertility ratio has been its dramatic decline in the last decade. It has decreased from 584 to 415 between 1960 and 1970. This decline occurred in both urban and rural areas and among whites and nonwhites alike. The nonwhite ratio declined most drastically from 758 to 519, a change of 239 children for each 1,000 nonwhite women of child bearing age compared to a change of 135 children for whites. However, the rates for whites are still considerably lower than are those for nonwhites.

A review of trends in the fertility ratio among whites and nonwhites by residence demonstrates higher rates among rural dwellers of both races. Until 1950, urban whites had higher fertility ratios than their nonwhite neighbors while in rural areas, since 1940 nonwhites have produced more offspring than have whites. However, here again these rates declined sharply for both groups of rural residents during the decade of the 60's.

Education

The 20th century has been marked by a strong emphasis on formal education within Alabama as ever increasing numbers of residents obtained varying levels of formal schooling. Whereas only 49.1 percent of the population, age 5 to 24, were enrolled in school in 1920, 50 years later this figure had reached 70.1 percent, Figure 3.

The median years of schooling completed by Alabamians, 25 years and over, in 1940 was less than the elementary level of 8 years; but over the next 30 years the median increased from 7.1 to 10.8 years, Table 14. In this same 30 years, the increase in the

TABLE 14. MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED BY PERSONS 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER FOR ALABAMA BY RESIDENCE AND BY RACE, 1920-1970

Census year	State	Residence		Race		
		Urban	Rural	White	Nonwhite	
		<i>Median</i>				
1920.....	*	*	*	*	*	
1930.....	*	*	*	*	*	
1940.....	7.1	8.3	*	8.2	4.5	
1950.....	7.9	9.0	7.0	8.8	5.4	
1960.....	9.1	10.3	8.1	10.2	6.5	
1970.....	10.8	11.9	9.5	11.6	8.1	

* Data not available.

Sources: U.S. *Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Tables 43, 46, 62; 1960 PC (1)-2C, Table 47; 1940 Volume II, Table 13.

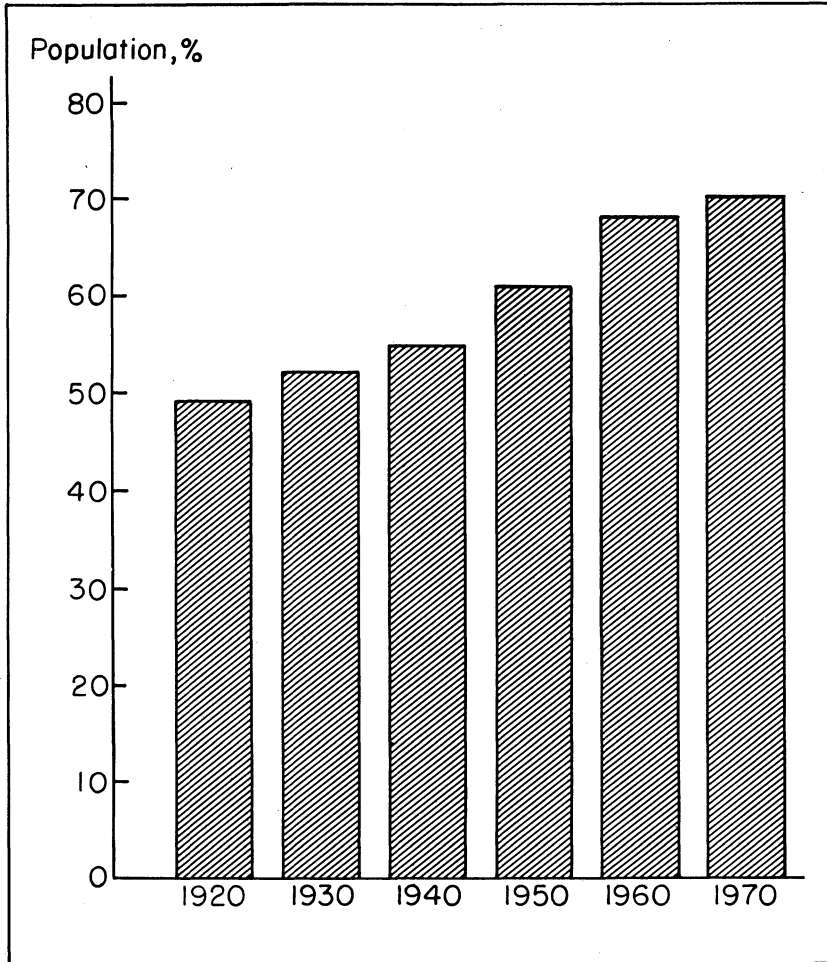


FIG. 3. Percent of the Alabama population 5 to 24 years of age enrolled in school, 1920-1970.

median school years completed by whites and nonwhites has been very similar at 3.4 years and 3.6 years respectively. The fact remains, nevertheless, that nonwhites in the State remain behind whites in formal educational attainment. While the 1970 median for whites was 11.6 years, the nonwhite median was only 8.1 years.

In both rural and urban areas, increasing emphasis on education is reflected in higher median levels. Residents of rural areas both historically and currently attain lower levels of formal edu-

cation than do those of urban areas. The difference here was about 2½ years of formal education in 1970. Some of this difference is probably attributable to differences in the age structure of the areas. In general, however, regardless of race or residence, Alabamians have demonstrated their awareness of the fact that in a world of increasingly complex technology and social order the young people must have more formal education if they are to be able to cope with the demands of society both today and tomorrow.

The Labor Force

Some distinctive patterns have been exhibited by the Alabama labor force during the last half century, Table 15. Probably because of an emphasis on compulsory education, the proportion of the population 14 years of age and older⁵ in the labor force since 1920 has declined by 6 percent. Declining labor force participation among males has been particularly noticeable, falling from 88.5 percent in 1920 to a current level of 69.1 percent. Among females, the reverse has been true. There is a larger proportion of females in the labor force today than was the case during any previous decade. Thirty-six percent of the women 14 to 65 years of age were active participants in the labor force in 1970. With increasing emphasis on personal fulfillment through careers, control of family size through modern medical technology, and the desire for maintaining high standards of living supported by two wage earners, the proportion of women in the Alabama labor force probably will continue to rise in coming

TABLE 15. PERCENTAGE OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION 14 YEARS AND OVER IN THE LABOR FORCE BY SEX, 1920-1970

Census year	State	Percent	
		Male	Female
1920*	57.8	88.5	27.5
1930*	56.6	86.8	27.2
1940	51.4	80.1	23.9
1950	51.2	77.7	26.4
1960	51.9	73.6	32.2
1970	51.7	69.1	36.2

* Data are for those 10 years of age and over gainfully employed.

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC(1)-C2, Tables 45, 46, 1950 P-B2, Table 26.

⁵ Data for 1920 and 1930 include those persons 10 years and over who were gainfully employed while the 1940 to 1970 data include those 14 years and over who were in the labor force.

TABLE 16. PERCENTAGE OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION 14 YEARS AND OVER IN THE LABOR FORCES BY RESIDENCE AND SEX, 1940-1970

Census year	Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	<i>Percent</i>					
1940.....	56.0	80.5	34.7	49.1	79.8	18.0
1950.....	55.0	78.5	34.5	48.0	77.0	19.0
1960.....	55.7	76.4	37.7	47.3	70.1	25.0
1970.....	53.7	70.9	38.9	48.7	66.5	31.8

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 53; 1960 PC(1) 2C, Table 52; 1950 P-B2, Table 25; 1940, Second Series, Table 16.

decades, if additional employment opportunities are made available.

Labor force participation in rural and urban areas exhibits the same patterns as observed for the State as a whole, Table 16. The proportion of males has declined while the proportion of females has increased in both residential settings. Females in rural areas, in particular, were much more likely to be employed in 1970 than in 1940. The proportion of employed rural women increased from 18.0 percent to 31.8 percent in this 30-year period. Apparently the traditional role of the homemaker in the rural areas is rapidly fading as rural women join the labor force at an increasing rate. This trend may not only be the result of changing family role definitions but may reflect also the increased job opportunities for women found in rural areas as the result of the decentralization of manufacturing industries away from urban areas and from north to south. It may also stem from the development of modern means of transportation which allow the rural resident to commute to jobs.

Participation of whites in the labor force was less than that of nonwhites during the period 1920 to 1950, Table 17. Since then,

TABLE 17. PERCENTAGE OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION 14 YEARS AND OLDER IN THE LABOR FORCE BY RACE AND SEX, 1920-1970

Census year	State	White			Nonwhite		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
		<i>Percent</i>					
1920*	57.8	52.0	87.2	16.0	66.9	90.7	44.9
1930*	56.6	51.4	85.4	17.3	65.7	89.6	43.9
1940.....	51.4	48.5	79.7	17.6	57.0	80.9	35.5
1950.....	51.2	50.3	78.6	23.1	53.2	75.6	33.6
1960.....	51.9	52.3	75.8	30.1	51.1	67.2	37.5
1970.....	51.7	53.4	72.4	35.9	46.6	58.2	37.0

* Data are for those 10 years of age and older.

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 45, 46; 1950 P-B2, Table 26.

however, the proportion of whites in the labor force has been larger than that of nonwhites. The trend for men in the two racial groups has followed that of the State. The proportion of white males in the labor force has declined from 87.2 percent in 1920 to 72.4 percent by 1970, and that of nonwhite males has declined from 90.7 percent to 58.2 percent. Female labor force participation has been inconsistent with this state pattern. Non-white females, although representing a smaller proportion of the female labor force now than in 1920, have in the past and are currently participating at a higher rate than their white counterparts, even though the proportion of white females in the labor force has more than doubled since 1920. A major factor in this change for nonwhite women has been the shift away from domestic employment which was counterbalanced to some extent by the opening of new jobs in industry and sales.

Industry Groups

Perhaps the most dramatic change occurring in Alabama during the last half century has been the alteration of the State's industrial composition. In 1920, more than half the work force was employed in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, while only 16.6 percent were employed in manufacturing, Table 18. Outside

TABLE 18. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INDUSTRY GROUPS OF THE EMPLOYED IN ALABAMA, 1920-1970

Industry group	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970
	-----Percent-----					
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.....	55.5	48.6	40.1	24.6	9.8	3.6
Mining.....	3.9	3.4	3.4	2.7	1.1	1.7
Construction.....	*	*	3.3	5.3	6.7	6.4
Manufacturing.....	16.6	18.1	17.4	21.8	26.5	27.1
Transportation, communication, public utilities.....	4.6	5.6	4.3	5.7	5.9	6.3
Wholesale and retail trade.....	5.0	7.2	10.1	14.9	17.0	18.0
Finance, insurance, real estate.....	0.4	1.2	1.4	2.1	3.0	3.5
Business and repair services.....	*	*	1.0	1.6	1.8	2.2
Personal services.....	7.7	9.7	10.6	8.7	9.9	6.1
Entertainment and recreation services.....	*	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
Professional and related services.....	2.8	3.6	4.8	6.8	10.2	14.5
Public administration.....	0.7	1.0	2.0	3.7	5.4	5.6
Clerical occupations.....	2.4	*	*	*	*	*

* Data not available.

Sources: U.S. *Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 47; 1960 PC(1)-2C, Table 61; 1950 P-B2, Tables 30, 31a; 1930, *Composition and Characteristics*, Table 10; 1920 Compendium, Table 25.

of these fields, the level of employment was minor. Gradually, agricultural employment has declined so that by 1970 only 3.6 percent of the employed were in this industry. But only a relatively small part of this decline in agricultural workers was reflected in expanded employment in manufacturing. By 1970, the proportion employed in this industry had increased 10.5 percent. The majority of the workers no longer needed in agriculture had been absorbed indirectly through the expansion of jobs in other industrial groups.

Urbanization and industrialization generate demand for goods and services. This demand is reflected in an increasing proportion of individuals employed in the wholesale and retail fields and in the professions. These two groups together currently employ a larger share of the work force than the manufacturing complex in the State. Similarly, as the Alabama population has grown, so has the need for public services. The proportion employed in public administration has increased from less than 1 percent in 1920 to 5.6 percent in 1970.

The diversification of major industrial groups has not only been of benefit to urban dwellers, but has offered new types of employment to rural residents as well, Table 19. In 1930, the two industry groups providing the major share of employment for urbanites were manufacturing and personal service, while among rural dwellers, employment was chiefly in agriculture and manufacturing. The proportion of urban residents employed in manufacturing before 1950 was higher than among rural residents. Since that time, however, the proportion of urbanites employed in manufacturing has declined while manufacturing employment has increased among rural dwellers. Residents of urban areas in Alabama have sought employment in new fields of endeavor, primarily in wholesale and retail trade, the professions, and public administration. These three industrial groups provided employment for 46 percent of the employed urban workers in 1970. Rural residents in the State have not neglected these fields either as their employment rates in these industry groups have increased by 24 percent over the past 40 years.

Employment trends in the State by race during the past 50 years also reveal several interesting patterns, Table 20. The proportion of whites employed in the manufacturing sector of the economy has always and continues to exceed that of nonwhites. The most recent census indicates, however, that the proportion

TABLE 19. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INDUSTRY GROUPS OF THE EMPLOYED IN ALABAMA BY RESIDENCE, 1930-1970

Industry group	Urban					Rural				
	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries.....	2.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	69.5	60.8	46.9	22.7	8.4
Mining.....	1.8	2.0	1.9	0.7	0.5	4.1	4.1	3.4	1.7	1.1
Construction.....	*	4.9	6.1	6.0	5.6	*	2.3	4.5	7.8	8.9
Manufacturing.....	33.2	25.8	25.9	25.5	24.4	11.2	12.8	17.9	28.1	35.2
Transportation, communication, public utilities.....	10.6	8.4	6.9	7.0	3.4	2.1	3.2	3.2	4.3	6.0
Wholesale and retail trade.....	15.7	19.1	21.4	20.0	21.2	3.3	5.1	8.6	12.6	15.4
Finance, insurance, real estate.....	3.1	3.3	3.5	4.1	4.7	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.3	2.1
Business and repair service.....	*	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.6	*	0.7	1.3	1.6	1.9
Personal services.....	21.6	19.9	13.0	11.6	7.4	4.4	5.6	4.7	7.4	5.4
Entertainment and related services.....	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
Professional and related services.....	6.6	7.7	9.2	12.4	18.2	2.3	3.3	4.4	6.6	10.6
Public administration.....	2.2	3.9	5.1	6.7	6.6	0.5	1.6	2.3	3.9	4.5

* Data not available: No information for 1920.

Sources: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC(1)-C2, Table 66; 1960 PC(1)-2C, Table 61; 1950 P-B2, Table 29; 1940 Second Series, Table 19; 1930 Composition and Characteristics, Table 10.

TABLE 20. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INDUSTRY GROUPS OF THE EMPLOYED IN ALABAMA, BY RACE, 1920-1970

Industry group	White						Nonwhite					
	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970
	<i>Percent</i>											
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries.....	54.1	46.3	36.5	22.3	8.3	3.4	57.2	51.7	45.4	29.6	14.4	4.5
Mining.....	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.5	1.1	0.7	4.9	4.0	3.9	3.0	1.1	0.7
Construction.....	*	*	4.0	5.9	7.3	6.6	*	*	2.0	4.1	5.1	5.4
Manufacturing.....	18.1	21.3	20.6	23.6	29.2	27.7	14.6	13.5	12.0	17.9	19.4	24.8
Transportation, communica- tion, and public utilities....	4.5	6.4	5.1	6.4	6.6	6.6	4.7	4.5	3.1	4.5	4.2	5.0
Wholesale and retail trade....	7.8	10.4	13.2	17.8	19.3	19.8	1.7	2.7	4.9	8.4	10.4	11.7
Finance, insurance, real estate.....	0.7	1.9	1.9	2.6	3.6	4.1	---	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.2
Business, repair services.....	*	*	1.3	2.0	2.1	2.5	*	*	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.2
Personal services.....	1.9	2.9	3.2	2.8	3.5	3.0	14.8	10.9	22.7	21.5	27.6	17.7
Entertainment and recrea- tion services.....	*	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.5	*	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5
Professional and related services.....	4.1	4.8	5.8	7.1	9.9	13.8	1.1	2.0	3.3	6.2	10.8	17.2
Public administration.....	1.1	1.4	3.6	4.9	6.8	6.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	1.1	2.2	2.6
Clerical occupations.....	4.1	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	*	*	*	*	*

* Data not available. Less than 1 percent.

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC(1)-C2, Table 47; 1960 PC(1)-2C, Table 61; 1950 P-B2, Table 31; 1940 Second Series, Tables 19a, 19b, 1930 Composition and Characteristics, Table 10; 1920 Compendium, Table 25.

of whites has declined since 1960 while the proportion of non-white employment in manufacturing has continued to rise. The wholesale and retail trade industry has been attracting a larger number of workers with the proportion of whites increasing from 7.8 percent in 1920 to 19.8 percent in 1970 and the proportion of nonwhites from 1.7 percent to 11.7 percent over the same period. Among nonwhites, the field of domestic or personal services is still a major employer, although it declined almost 10 percent between 1960 and 1970. Since 1920, the field of professional services has grown among the ranks of both whites and nonwhites as an employment base, with current census figures revealing a larger proportion of nonwhites, 17.2 percent, than whites, 13.8 percent, employed in this field. In the field of public administration, although members of both races are participating at a higher rate than in 1920, whites are more than twice as likely to be employed in such jobs than are nonwhites.

Occupation Groups

Any discussion of changing employment patterns is not complete unless one considers, in addition to labor force participation rates and changes in the industrial composition of the population, the changes in the type of occupations followed by the people. Although information on occupational types is not available for 1920 and 1930, the trends evident since 1940 are important. Those trends illustrate very distinct patterns even over this short span of time. Nowhere is the dynamic nature of the changes occurring in Alabama more dramatically revealed.

TABLE 21. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMPLOYED IN MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS IN ALABAMA, 1940-1970

Occupation groups	1940	1950	1960	1970
	-----Percent-----			
Professional, technical, and kindred	4.9	6.3	8.8	11.8
Managers and administrators.....	5.0	6.8	7.9	7.5
Sales workers.....	4.2	5.6	6.3	6.2
Clerical and kindred.....	4.4	7.3	10.4	13.3
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred....	7.1	10.8	13.5	14.3
Operatives.....	14.3	18.9	19.4	20.1
Laborers.....	7.9	7.6	7.4	5.7
Farmers and farm managers.....	23.8	15.6	5.7	1.6
Farm laborers and foremen.....	15.9	8.5	3.5	1.4
Service workers.....	4.2	5.8	8.1	9.2
Private household workers.....	7.6	5.3	6.3	3.2
Occupation not reported.....	0.7	1.5	2.7	5.5

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC (1)-C2, Table 46; 1950 P-B2, Tables 28, 29.*

In 1940, when agriculture was still a prime employer of Alabamians, nearly 40 percent of the workers pursued occupations directly related to it. A sizeable proportion of the workers—nearly 24 percent—were farmers and farm managers, Table 21. People in white collar occupations, which include professionals, technicians, sales and clerical workers, accounted for 18.5 percent of the labor force and craftsmen, operatives and laborers, the blue collar labor force, comprised 30 percent of all workers in the State, Figure 4.

The occupational structure reflected in the current census is quite different from that existing 30 years ago. It is no longer dominated by occupations directly related to agriculture. While the proportion employed in service occupations⁶ has not changed appreciably, those proportions in white and blue collar occupations have grown markedly. Since 1940, the proportion of blue collar workers has increased by 11 percent and, even more strikingly, the proportion of white collar workers has increased by 20.3 percent.

A modern industrial nation requires the services of specialists and skilled laborers. In Alabama, the increase in the proportion of males in the professional, technical, and craftsmen-foremen groups certainly supports the contention that Alabama has joined the technological revolution, Table 22. It comes as no surprise that the proportion of male laborers in the State has declined since 1960 because this occupation typically requires the least skill. As Alabama has become more industrialized, fewer unskilled jobs are available as such tasks are gradually being taken over by machines. Although the proportion of male operative jobs has increased over the past 30 years, this group will probably stabilize or even decline in the future.

New industrial operations locating in Alabama will utilize modern technology and the jobs they will provide will employ both men and women on a more equal basis. This trend is already apparent, Table 22. The proportion of female operatives has been on the rise since 1940 and now almost equals that of men. Similar increases have occurred in the proportion of women working in professional and technical occupations and particularly in the clerical field since 1940. Not only does a modern technology re-

⁶ Includes both service and private household workers.

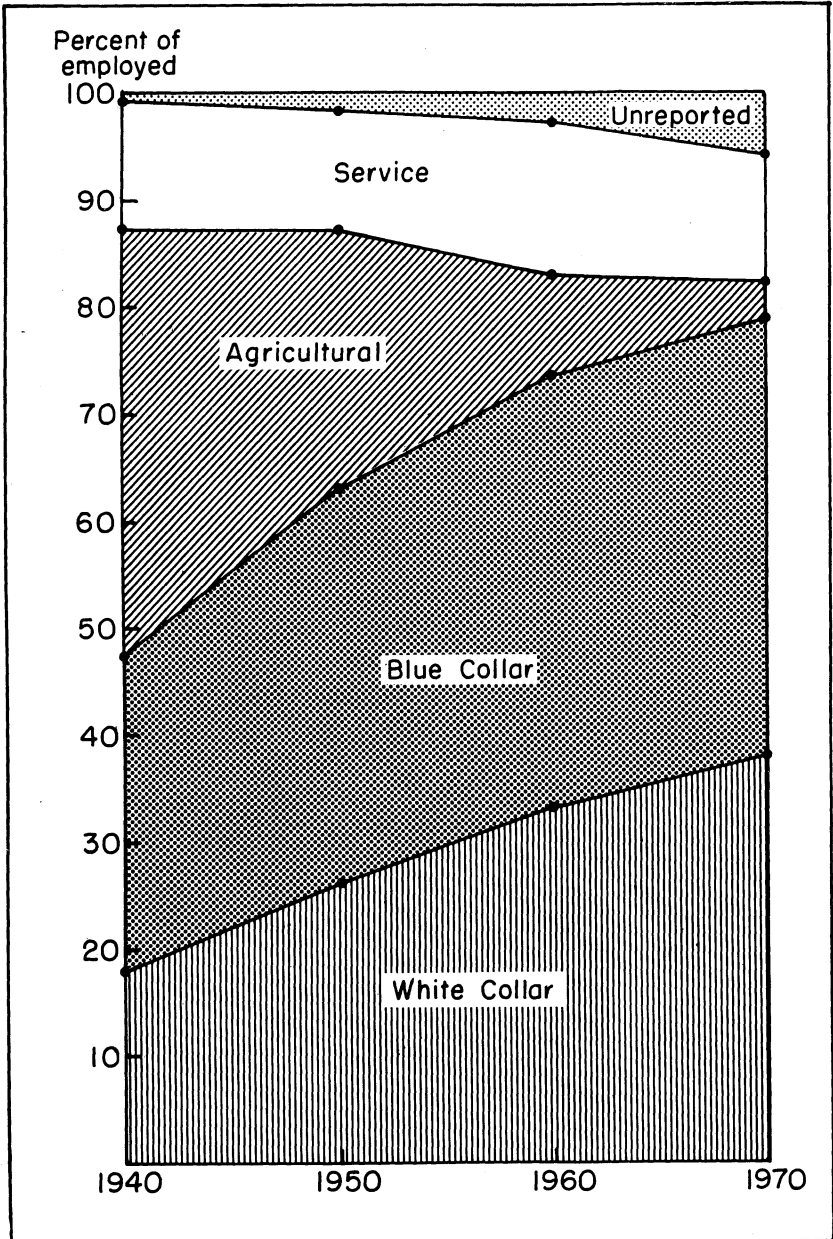


FIG. 4. Percent of Alabama's employed in the four major occupational divisions, 1940-1970. (For an explanation of these occupational divisions see U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC(1)C2, Appendix, P. 15.)

TABLE 22. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMPLOYED IN MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS IN ALABAMA BY SEX, 1940-1970

Occupation groups	Male				Female			
	1940	1950	1960	1970	1940	1950	1960	1970
	<i>Percent</i>							
Professional, technical, and kindred.....	3.2	4.5	7.3	10.4	10.4	11.3	11.8	14.1
Managers and administrators.....	5.9	7.9	9.9	9.8	2.2	3.8	4.0	3.6
Sales workers.....	4.0	4.9	5.9	6.2	4.7	7.5	7.2	5.2
Clerical and kindred.....	3.0	4.0	5.1	5.8	9.1	16.6	21.2	26.0
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred.....	9.2	14.4	19.5	21.6	0.4	0.8	1.0	1.9
Operatives.....	14.9	20.0	21.1	21.6	12.6	15.9	15.9	17.5
Laborers.....	10.2	10.1	10.7	8.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.1
Farmers and farm managers.....	29.6	20.5	8.0	2.4	5.2	2.0	1.0	0.3
Farm laborers and foremen.....	15.7	8.5	4.4	1.9	16.0	8.3	1.5	0.6
Service workers.....	3.3	3.8	5.4	6.2	7.0	11.2	13.5	14.4
Private household workers.....	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	30.4	19.3	18.8	8.5
Occupation not reported.....	0.7	1.1	2.4	5.4	1.4	2.6	3.3	5.8

Source: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC(1)-C2, Table 46; 1960 PC(1)-2C, Table 59.

quire a skilled worker, it also requires a substantial force of record-keeping specialists to keep track of the voluminous paperwork. Among employed females there has been a marked decline in the proportion of private household workers, an occupational group which once was the major one for females. With the rise in educational attainment and the opportunity for more secure economic futures, females are no longer willing to settle for less-prestigious occupations.

Changes in the occupations of the Alabama population when viewed from the standpoint of residence, illustrate several distinct patterns, Table 23. Urbanites have increasingly become white collar workers. The proportion of urban workers in this occupation group has risen from 33.9 percent to 49 percent since 1940, while the proportion of blue collar workers among urban residents has shrunk slightly during this period from 41.8 to 35.8 percent. Although residents of rural areas have also increased in the proportion employed in white collar jobs, 17.7 percent more in 1970 than in 1940, the most significant increase among rural workers has been in blue collar occupations. The proportion of rural residents performing blue collar work has more than doubled in the 30-year period, from 22.8 to 53.6 percent. Rural residents, who typically have lower educational attainment levels than their urban counterparts, have sought and obtained blue collar jobs thus becoming the backbone of the production labor force in the State. This growth of the blue collar labor force among rural residents has occurred in part because of manufacturing industries locating in rural areas, as well as because of the rural worker's willingness to commute considerable distance to jobs while maintaining his rural residence.

The pattern of occupational change by race in the State over the past 30 years is very similar to that found for residence. Whites have increasingly become white collar workers, while nonwhites have been filling the blue collar occupations, Table 24. Although whites are still occupying a substantial share of blue collar jobs—nearly 40 percent in 1970—the proportion of whites employed in this broad occupational group has declined in the last 10 years. Among nonwhites, the proportion so employed has been increasing and in 1970 exceeded the proportion of whites employed as blue collar workers. The latest census revealed that blue collar occupations in the State were held by 39.3 percent of

TABLE 23. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMPLOYED IN MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS IN ALABAMA BY RESIDENCE, 1940-1970

Occupation groups	Urban				Rural			
	1940	1950	1960	1970	1940	1950	1960	1970
	<i>Percent</i>							
Professional, technical, and kindred.....	7.7	8.7	11.7	15.5	3.1	4.0	5.7	7.4
Managers and administrators.....	8.6	9.4	9.7	9.1	3.3	4.3	5.2	5.9
Sales workers.....	17.6*	8.0	7.9	7.8	3.6*	3.4	4.6	4.5
Clerical and kindred.....	*	11.6	14.2	16.6	*	3.3	6.2	9.9
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred.....	11.5	13.6	14.2	13.6	4.7	8.2	13.4	17.8
Operatives.....	20.5	21.4	18.5	17.0	11.4	16.8	24.8	28.4
Laborers.....	9.8	8.4	6.7	5.2	6.7	7.0	8.2	7.4
Farmers and farm managers.....	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	36.6	30.5	14.0	4.1
Farm laborers and foremen.....	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	24.0	16.4	8.0	3.3
Service workers.....	9.0	9.0	9.8	10.8	2.2	2.8	5.0	8.2
Private household workers.....	13.8	7.6	7.3	3.8	4.4	3.2	5.3	3.1

* Clerical and sales combined in 1940. Information on unreported occupations not available.

Sources: *U. S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC(1)-C2, Table 65; 1960 PC (1)-2C, Table 70; 1950 P-B2, Table 29; 1940 Second Series, Table 18.

TABLE 24. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMPLOYED IN MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS IN ALABAMA BY RACE, 1940-1970

Occupation groups	White				Nonwhite			
	1940	1950	1960	1970	1940	1950	1960	1970
	<i>Percent</i>							
Professional, technical, and kindred.....	6.2	7.6	10.5	13.1	2.2	3.5	5.0	7.0
Managers and administrators.....	7.9	9.4	10.1	9.1	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.6
Sales workers.....	13.2*	7.8	8.3	7.5	0.8*	0.9	0.9	1.3
Clerical and kindred.....	*	10.2	13.8	15.6	*	1.0	1.9	4.9
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred.....	9.9	18.8	16.0	16.1	2.5	4.1	5.3	7.9
Operatives.....	16.8	19.5	21.0	19.4	10.5	17.6	18.2	23.0
Laborers.....	4.5	4.0	3.9	3.8	13.1	15.6	15.9	12.5
Farmers and farm managers.....	25.2	15.7	5.5	1.7	21.3	15.3	6.4	1.0
Farm laborers and foremen.....	10.8	6.0	2.0	1.0	23.5	13.8	7.2	2.9
Service workers.....	3.8	4.1	5.4	7.0	5.8	9.6	13.8	17.2
Private household workers.....	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.6	19.2	16.1	21.4	13.1
Occupation not reported.....	0.9	1.5	2.7	5.0	0.6	1.5	2.8	7.6

* Clerical and sales combined in 1940.

Sources: *U.S. Census of Population, Alabama*: 1970 PC(1)-C2, Table 46; 1960 PC(1)-2C, Table 58; 1950 P-B2, Table 28; 1940 Second Series, Tables 19a, 19b.

whites and 43.4 percent of nonwhites. Both whites and nonwhites have become more heavily employed in service occupations in recent decades, but a nonwhite employment level of 30.3 percent in 1970 was significantly higher than that for whites of 7.6 percent.

SUMMARY

The past 50 years in Alabama represent an era of rapid change. Of the many changes that have taken place, the alteration of its residential and racial composition have been two of the most notable. A summation of the population change that has occurred is presented here from the perspective of these population segments.

Residence

The urbanization of the population has been a major and dramatic process. Since 1920, the proportion of the population living in urban areas has more than doubled. Not only are more people living in urban areas, but the 1970 urbanite is quite different from his 1920 counterpart. Major changes also have occurred in the rural areas of the State. Not only do rural residents represent a smaller proportion of the State population, but those that have maintained their rural residence are significantly different from previous rural residents.

Urban. Residents in urban areas of the State are slightly older and better educated than were those in the past. The dependency ratio in urban locales was higher in 1970 than in 1920 as was the fertility ratio, even though the latter has been falling since 1950. The proportion of urban residents 14 years of age and older has declined in the male labor force while the proportion of females has been on the rise. Industrially, urban employment is no longer concentrated in manufacturing and personal services. Major proportions of the employed in urban areas are associated with wholesale and retail trades and professional services. Although urbanites are still employed at a significant level in blue collar jobs, the trend has been for urban residents to move into white collar positions.

Rural. In 1970, rural residents in Alabama were significantly older than those in 1930; and declining dependency and fertility ratios have been evident recently. Their level of educational attainment has increased since 1950 and labor force participation has declined slightly since 1940. The most noticeable trend

among rural residents has been the dramatic increase in the proportion of females in the labor force. Accompanying the marked decline of agriculture as a major employer in the State has been the growth of employment opportunities in manufacturing, wholesale and retail trades and professional services for rural residents. Occupationally, the majority of the rural people in the state have changed from agriculture to blue collar work.

Race

The racial composition of the Alabama population has been significantly altered during the last half century. The proportion of whites has increased markedly while that of nonwhites has decreased. Moreover, race continues to be a distinctive factor associated with differences in population behavior.

White. The white population in the State has increased in both numbers and proportion during the last 50 years. At the same time the white population has become older. Its dependency and fertility ratios are significantly lower in 1970 than they were in 1920. Whites in the State are better educated and are participating in the labor force at a higher rate than in the past. The female labor force has more than doubled since 1920. Industrially, white employment is no longer chiefly in agriculture and related fields but has reached significant levels in manufacturing, wholesale and retail trades, and professional services. White collar employment is now the major occupational group among whites in the State. Since 1950, there has been a slight decline in the proportion of white employees in blue collar occupations.

Nonwhite. A smaller proportion of the Alabama population at the present time is comprised of nonwhites than at any time since race data have been recorded. The age structure for nonwhites has changed little but the dependency ratio was higher in 1970 than in 1920. Although fertility among nonwhites declined dramatically in the last decade, it too was higher than it was in 1920. Participation in the labor force by nonwhites has declined. While over half of the nonwhites in the State had jobs in the agricultural field in 1920, by 1970 their employment in manufacturing, personal and professional services and in wholesale and retail trades had grown to substantial proportions. A major proportion, almost half, of the nonwhite Alabamians are employed now in blue collar occupations.

CONCLUSIONS

Demographic statistics for the Alabama population presented in this report document the fact that the last half century (1920-1970) has indeed been an era of dramatic change. Alabamians no longer represent a predominantly young, rural population. Their needs and interests are far different from those of their grandfathers just 50 years ago.

Although the growth rate for the State has been slower than that of the nation in recent decades, this is not necessarily a negative trait. In recent years there has been a rising concern about rapid population growth. The blind adherence to the premise that to be bigger was to be automatically better has come under direct challenge. How many people can live in Alabama without straining the ability of the State to provide this population with a quality standard of living? The slow rate of population growth experienced in the recent past has provided an opportunity for the State to improve the quality of life of its citizens. Educational opportunities have grown as has the employment base through the broadening of industrial groups. There is still much improvement that can be made even though the population data presented in this report clearly illustrate how far the State has come.

There is no better time than the present for the citizens of Alabama to consider the kind of life they wish to have for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren. Sound social and economic planning against a backdrop of demographic trends is needed if the State is to continue to improve the quality of life of its citizens.

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APPENDIX A

TABLE A-1. DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. POPULATION BY RACE AND RESIDENCE, 1920-1970

	Residence		Race	
	Urban	Rural	White	Nonwhite
1920.....	51.2	48.8	89.5	10.5
1930.....	56.1	43.9	89.6	10.4
1940.....	56.5	43.5	89.6	10.4
1950.....	64.0	36.0	89.3	10.7
1960.....	69.9	30.1	88.6	11.4
1970.....	73.5	36.0	87.5	12.5

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary*: 1970, Volume A, Table 3 and Volume B, Table 48.

TABLE A-2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR THE U.S. BY RESIDENCE AND RACE, 1970

	U.S.	Residence		Race	
		Urban	Rural	White	Nonwhite
Median age.....	28.3	28.1	27.9	28.9	22.7
Male.....	26.8	26.7	27.2	27.6	21.5
Female.....	29.3	29.5	28.7	30.2	23.8
Dependency ratio.....	622	602	681	609	717
Fertility ratio.....	404	391	443	392	482
White.....	-----	378	431	-----	-----
Nonwhite.....	-----	465	569	-----	-----
Median educational attainment.....	12.1	12.2	*	12.1	10.0
Pct. 14 yr., and over in					
labor force.....	57.1	56.7	58.2	55.6	68.7
Male.....	72.8	73.9	69.8	73.7	65.3
Female.....	42.7	41.4	46.8	38.9	71.7
Pct. in broad occupational groups.					
White collar.....	48.20	52.62	34.59	50.56	28.83
Blue collar.....	35.91	33.61	43.04	35.30	40.94
Agricultural.....	3.11	0.58	10.95	3.11	3.08
Service.....	12.77	13.20	11.43	11.03	27.15

* Data not available.

Source: *U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary*: 1970, Volume B, Tables 50, 52, 63 and Volume C, Tables 75, 90, 91.

TABLE A-3. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INDUSTRY GROUPS OF THE EMPLOYED IN THE U.S., BY RESIDENCE AND RACE, 1970

Industry group	Total	Residence		Race	
		Urban	Rural	White	Nonwhite
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries.....	3.71	1.02	12.04	3.70	3.79
Mining.....	0.82	0.56	1.64	0.88	0.33
Construction.....	5.97	5.37	7.84	6.05	5.31
Manufacturing.....	25.91	25.27	27.90	26.18	23.69
Transportation, communication and public utilities.....	6.77	7.10	5.76	6.79	6.65
Wholesale and retail trade.....	20.08	21.14	16.82	20.74	14.61
Finance, insurance, real estate.....	5.01	5.73	2.78	5.24	3.17
Business, repair services.....	3.13	3.44	2.16	3.19	2.63
Personal services.....	4.62	4.76	4.17	3.65	12.65
Entertainment and recreation service...	0.82	0.92	0.53	0.83	0.74
Professional and related services.....	17.65	18.77	14.18	17.40	19.69
Public administration.....	5.49	5.91	4.18	5.34	6.73

Source: U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary: 1970, Volume C, Table 92.

TABLE A-4 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EMPLOYED IN MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUPS IN THE U.S. BY SEX, RESIDENCE, AND RACE, 1970

Occupation groups	Total	Sex		Residence		Race	
		Male	Female	Urban	Rural	White	Nonwhite
Professional, technical and kindred.....	14.82	14.28	15.73	16.20	10.58	15.47	9.49
Managers and administrators.....	8.32	11.16	3.65	8.70	7.16	9.00	2.72
Sales workers.....	7.11	6.93	7.40	7.80	4.99	7.67	2.51
Clerical and kindred.....	17.95	7.64	34.93	19.92	11.86	18.42	14.11
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred..	13.86	21.18	1.80	13.18	15.96	14.42	9.19
Operatives.....	17.57	19.54	14.33	16.25	21.69	16.94	22.81
Laborers.....	4.48	6.60	0.98	4.18	5.39	3.94	8.94
Farmers and farm managers.....	1.86	2.84	0.25	0.18	7.08	2.01	0.64
Farm laborers and foremen.....	1.25	1.68	0.53	0.40	3.87	1.10	2.44
Service workers.....	11.27	8.05	16.56	11.73	9.83	10.26	19.57
Private household workers.....	1.50	0.08	3.85	1.47	1.60	0.77	7.58

Source: U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary: 1970, Volume C, Table 91.

APPENDIX B

TABLE B. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ALABAMA POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP, 1920-1970

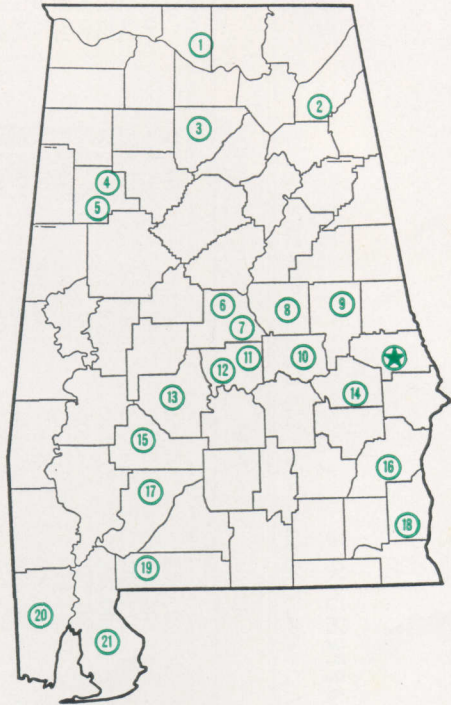
Age group	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	Increase 1920-1970
	<i>Number</i>						<i>Percent</i>
Less than 5	299,522	313,882	297,319	380,124	390,403	301,031	.5
5-9	318,231	331,713	304,498	326,803	367,858	347,305	9.1
10-14	299,412	303,440	314,341	293,440	350,291	371,822	24.2
15-19	244,993	294,168	300,291	265,240	279,481	341,751	39.5
20-24	211,275	259,361	261,776	243,006	207,634	274,544	30.0
25-29	180,841	208,954	242,848	234,242	194,879	216,947	20.0
30-34	144,491	164,833	210,896	213,437	204,749	191,048	32.2
35-39	150,334	164,036	187,486	217,660	208,167	186,422	24.0
40-44	111,313	130,871	151,443	191,974	195,391	196,519	76.5
45-49	117,195	138,358	139,114	161,656	190,352	193,353	65.0
50-54	79,779	106,459	118,630	135,506	167,409	179,620	125.1
55-59	54,088	73,716	93,317	110,774	140,361	168,516	211.5
60-64	50,495	55,948	74,793	89,223	108,618	149,326	195.7
65-69	35,778	39,246	62,041	86,977	100,021	122,154	241.4
70-74	23,924	29,184	36,903	54,599	73,769	85,750	258.4
75 and older	23,796	30,810	37,265	57,072	87,357	118,057	396.1

Source: U.S. Census of Population, Alabama: 1970 PC(1)-B2, Table 21.

Alabama's Agricultural Experiment Station System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

With an agricultural research unit in every major soil area, Auburn University serves the needs of field crop, live-stock, forestry, and horticultural producers in each region in Alabama. Every citizen of the State has a stake in this research program, since any advantage from new and more economical ways of producing and handling farm products directly benefits the consuming public.



Research Unit Identification

Main Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn.

1. Tennessee Valley Substation, Belle Mina.
2. Sand Mountain Substation, Crossville.
3. North Alabama Horticulture Substation, Cullman.
4. Upper Coastal Plain Substation, Winfield.
5. Forestry Unit, Fayette County.
6. Thorsby Foundation Seed Stocks Farm, Thorsby.
7. Chilton Area Horticulture Substation, Clanton.
8. Forestry Unit, Coosa County.
9. Piedmont Substation, Camp Hill.
10. Plant Breeding Unit, Tallassee.
11. Forestry Unit, Autauga County.
12. Prattville Experiment Field, Prattville.
13. Black Belt Substation, Marion Junction.
14. Tuskegee Experiment Field, Tuskegee.
15. Lower Coastal Plain Substation, Camden.
16. Forestry Unit, Barbour County.
17. Monroeville Experiment Field, Monroeville.
18. Wiregrass Substation, Headland.
19. Brewton Experiment Field, Brewton.
20. Ornamental Horticulture Field Station, Spring Hill.
21. Gulf Coast Substation, Fairhope.