

VITAL and HEALTH STATISTICS
DATA FROM THE NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

Demographic Characteristics of Persons Married Between January 1955 and June 1958

United States

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Age at marriage and marriage order of husbands and wives married from January 1955-June 1958, by color, residence, husband's occupation and status as head of household, and status of wife in the labor force. Data on couples living in June 1958 in households included in nationwide survey.

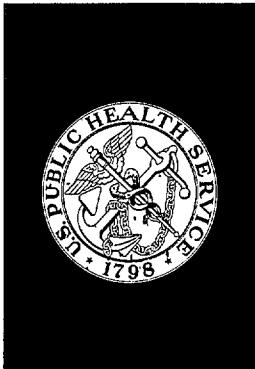
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SYMBOLS

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DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS MARRIED BETWEEN JANUARY 1955 AND JUNE 1958

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The purpose of the present report is to describe and analyze the principal demographic characteristics of couples married during the 3½ years from January 1955-June 1958.

The analysis is focused on variations in the distributions of first and remarriages and of age at marriage, by residence (region and farm vs. nonfarm), color, and status of husband as head of household, as well as by occupational status of husband and employment status of wife. The data in the report, secured from a nationwide sample of recently married couples, supplement statistics obtained from marriage certificates, which are available from about two-thirds of the States. The report itself relates statistics usually tabulated from these certificates (age, marriage order, and color) to key socioeconomic characteristics.

SOURCE OF DATA

The present study is based on a special survey for the National Office of Vital Statistics (NOVS). Field work was done by the Bureau of the Census under special arrangements with NOVS.

Data were collected from respondents in sample households interviewed in the June 1958 Current Population Survey of the United States.

~~Questions were asked about each person 14 years~~

addition to that secured for others in the Survey:

1. Is this a married man living with his wife?
2. If the answer to the above question was "yes," in what year were (the couple) married?
3. If date of marriage was on or after January 1, 1955,
 - a. where did (the couple) get married?
 - b. where was (husband, wife) living at time of marriage?
 - c. is this (husband's, wife's) first marriage?

DIFFERENCES IN MARRIAGE ESTIMATES

Based on the sample of households interviewed in June 1958, the estimated total number of recently married couples was 3,692,000 (table 1). (Estimates of totals when cited in the text are rounded to thousands.) Of these 3.7 million couples 1,061,000 were married in 1957, 1,091,000 in 1956, 1,097,000 in 1955, and 443,000 during the first 6 months of 1958.

The number of marriages performed in the United States during this period, as estimated from marriage records, was as follows:

	<i>Marriages performed</i>
Total -----	5,324,700
1958-----	¹ 690,700
1957-----	1,518,000
1956-----	1,585,000
1955-----	1,531,000

¹Estimated by multiplying the 1958 U.S. total by the ratio of January-June marriages to all 1958 marriages in a group of 39 reporting States.

The estimated 3,692,000 recently married couples for the period January 1955-June 1958 constitute 69 percent of the estimated number of marriages performed during the same period.

The numbers of recently married couples and of marriages performed are estimated totals of two different populations. It is necessary to avoid confusing the two when analyzing demographic characteristics of the couples in this study and those of brides and grooms, which are tabulated and published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) using data from marriage certificates (records).

The main differences between the two populations in terms of subgroups included in one and not the other are listed below:

<u>Subgroup</u>	<u>Recently married couples</u>	<u>Marriages performed</u>
Couples married during the period but legally separated or divorced before the Survey-----	Not included	Included
Couples married during the period, one or both of whom died before the Survey-----	Not included	Included
Persons married more than once during the period-----	Only last marriage included	All marriages included
Couples married during the period and still married, but not living in the same household at the time of the Survey-----	Not included	Included
Couples married during the period whose marriages were annulled before the Survey-----	Not included	Included
Couples for whom more than one marriage ceremony was performed during the period-----	Counted as one couple	Counted as number of ceremonies for which licenses were issued
Couples married under common law only-----	Included	Not included

The analysis of the data in this report does not include estimates of the sizes of these subgroups, since such an undertaking would fall outside the scope of the present report. However, results are available of a careful study of the differences between estimates of the total number of men and women married during an immediately preceding period (January 1950-April 1953) based on data from sample households in a monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) and estimates of

the number of brides and grooms based on marriage records.¹

Investigators found that the number of women married during this period, when estimated from the CPS sample, was 86 percent of the estimate from marriage records, while the sample estimate of men married during the same period was only 79 percent. Exclusion from the sample of members of the Armed Forces living in barracks and stationed overseas accounted for most of this discrepancy. The investigators cited estimates for four lesser sources of discrepancy between sample and record-count estimates, but found that 9 percentage points of each difference remained due to several unquantifiable sources of error in the record counts and sample enumerations. A separate comparison of marriage-order and age-at-marriage rates by sex based on CPS sample and record-count data showed similarities in these variables despite differences in area coverage.

AGE AND MARRIAGE ORDER

Distributions of age at marriage by reported year of marriage are shown in table 1 for 2,983,000 husbands and 2,951,000 wives married for the first time and for the 697,000 husbands and 733,000 wives whose last marriages during this 3½ year period were remarriages. Percent distributions are shown in table A. Among the first married, the proportion of husbands (15 percent) who married at ages 14-19 years was only one-third the proportion of wives (45 percent) married at these ages. On the other hand, 11 percent of these husbands but only 6 percent of these wives were 30 years or older at marriage. Among the remarried, 25 percent of the husbands and 34 percent of the wives were in the age group 14-29, whereas 25 percent of these husbands but only 17 percent of these wives were 50 years of age and over when married.

Table A. Percent distribution of marriages, by age at marriage of husband and of wife according to marriage order and year of marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order of husband and of wife and age at marriage	Year of marriage				
	Total	1958	1957	1956	1955
<u>Husband</u>					
Percent distribution					
First marriage-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14-19 years-----	15.4	11.9	15.7	15.0	16.8
20-21 years-----	22.1	26.7	22.5	24.0	18.3
22-24 years-----	27.7	22.3	24.7	27.4	32.6
25-29 years-----	23.5	26.0	25.2	21.5	23.0
30-34 years-----	6.0	5.2	6.5	6.9	5.0
35+ years-----	5.3	7.9	5.5	5.1	4.4
Remarriage-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14-29 years-----	24.6	18.5	23.6	23.1	32.5
30-34 years-----	14.2	17.0	10.3	14.8	16.2
35-39 years-----	13.7	14.5	12.5	12.8	16.0
40-49 years-----	22.3	20.5	28.8	19.6	18.5
50+ years-----	25.2	29.5	24.8	29.6	16.7
<u>Wife</u>					
First marriage-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14-17 years-----	19.0	13.2	19.4	19.2	20.4
18-19 years-----	26.3	30.1	24.9	24.9	27.7
20-21 years-----	23.0	20.8	21.5	25.9	22.2
22-24 years-----	16.9	16.0	18.0	15.9	17.1
25-29 years-----	9.2	11.6	9.5	8.5	8.8
30+ years-----	5.6	8.3	6.7	5.5	3.7
Remarriage-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14-29 years-----	34.1	21.4	40.4	34.0	34.0
30-34 years-----	17.2	13.9	16.7	13.9	24.4
35-39 years-----	14.5	18.6	10.9	12.4	19.5
40-49 years-----	17.4	24.9	17.0	20.9	8.1
50+ years-----	16.8	21.1	14.9	18.7	14.0

Source: Table 1. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

**Distributions by Age and
Marriage Order of Spouse**

Of the 2,742,000 couples both of whom were in their first marriages, 17 percent of the husbands and 47 percent of the wives were aged 14-19 years when married (table 2). However, 9 percent of the husbands and only 4 percent of the wives were 30 years or older at marriage.

As expected, the ages of husbands and wives in couples one or both of whom were remarried were older than the ages of first-married couples (table 3). Out of the 205,000 first-married wives whose husbands were remarried, 25 percent were 30 years or older at marriage, but 49 percent of the 240,000 previously married wives whose husbands were married for the first time belonged to this age group. Of the first-married husbands in these 240,000 couples, 42 percent were 30 years or older; 58 percent of the 205,000 remarried husbands of first-married wives were 30 years or older when last married. Finally, among

the 492,000 couples both of whom were remarried, 83 percent of the husbands and 74 percent of the wives were 30 years of age or older when married.

Median ages at marriage (the age above and below which fall equal numbers of ages at marriage of persons in the specified group) of first-married couples were 20.3 years for wives and 23.1 years for husbands (table B). The distance in years between ages at the first quartile and at the third quartile is a measure of the range of a distribution of ages at marriage. The age at first quartile is older than one-fourth and younger than three-fourths of all ages at marriage in the specified group; the age at the third quartile is older than three-fourths and younger than one-fourth of all such ages. Hence, the ages falling between these two quartiles are the middle one-half of the age distribution. Wives in the first-married couples, who had a first quartile age of 18.4 years and a third quartile of 22.9 years, had a range of 4.5 years of age during which one-

Table B. Median age with first and third quartiles of husband and of wife for specified age of spouse: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Specified age of husband	First quartile	Median	Third quartile	Specified age of wife	First quartile	Median	Third quartile
<u>First marriage</u>	Age of wife			<u>First marriage</u>	Age of husband		
All ages-	18.4	20.3	22.9	All ages--	20.7	23.1	26.4
14-19 years-	15.9	17.8	19.2	14-17 years-	17.4	20.4	22.3
20-21 years-	18.0	19.4	20.9	18-19 years-	20.2	21.7	23.9
22-24 years-	18.9	20.5	22.4	20-21 years-	21.3	23.2	25.7
25-29 years-	20.3	22.5	25.2	22-24 years-	23.0	24.8	27.9
30+ years---	23.0	27.5	30+	25+ years---	26.3	29.0	30+
<u>Remarriage</u>				<u>Remarriage</u>			
All ages-	29.2	38.1	40+	All ages--	32.9	42.7	53.1
14-29 years-	19.3	24.7	30.1	14-29 years-	22.0	30.1	37.0
30-39 years-	25.0	32.7	37.7	30-39 years-	32.7	38.4	46.2
40-54 years-	34.3	40+	40+	40+ years---	45.1	53.5	55+
55+ years---	40+	40+	40+				

Source: Tables 2 and 3. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

half of them were married. Their husbands, who had a first quartile age of 20.7 years and a third quartile age of 26.4 years, had a range of 5.7 years—greater by 1.2 years than the range for wives. Among first-married couples, husbands who married at the peak ages, 20-21, chose wives with an interquartile age range of 2.9 years, while wives who married at the peak ages, 18-19, chose husbands with an age range of 3.7 years (table 2). (The peak ages are the two age intervals having the largest number of husbands or wives for each age-year.) The age range for wives whose husbands were aged 22-24 years was 3.5 years, and for those whose husbands were aged 25-29 it was 4.9 years. Husbands with wives aged 20-21 had an age range of 4.4 years; those with wives aged 22-24 had a range of 4.9 years. As the age at first marriage of either husband or wife increased beyond the peak age, the age range of the partner also increased. However, at all age levels the age range of husbands was greater than that of wives. At equivalent age levels the men married partners who not only were younger (median age) but also had a narrower range of ages than did the women's partners.

For couples in which both were remarrying, the interquartile age range for all wives was at least 10.8 years (exact computation was not possible because the third quartile falls in the open-end interval 40 years and over), while that for all husbands was 20.2 years. The range in age of wives whose husbands were aged 14-29 was 10.8 years; that of husbands with wives aged 14-29 was 15.0 years. On the other hand, the age range of wives whose husbands were in the older category, 30-39, was 12.7 years, almost as long an interval as the 13.5-year range of husbands with wives aged 30-39.

Distributions by Residence and Color

The proportion of husbands entering first marriages (tables C and 4) was 81.1 for the entire group. It was largest in the Northeast (87.2 percent) and smallest in the West (70.8 percent), with intermediate percents in the North Central (83.4) and the South (79.9). The proportions of wives marrying for the first time differed from those of husbands by 1 percentage point or less in

the United States and in all regions except the West, where 68.0 percent of all wives were married for the first time.

Median age at first marriage of husbands (tables D and 4) was highest in the Northeast (24.3 years), almost the same in the North Central (23.2 years) and West (23.3 years), and lowest in the South (22.6 years). Median age of wives at first marriage showed similar differences among the regions, being highest in the Northeast (21.3 years), equal in the North Central and West (20.4 years), and lowest in the South (19.5 years). Thus the Northeast Region as characterized in these data showed the highest proportion of first marriages combined with the highest median ages at first marriage. Highest proportions of remarriages were found in the West, a region which includes several States with relatively high divorce rates, but the lowest median ages at first marriage were found in the South.

The median age of husbands at remarriage was 39.1 years for the Nation, with regional medians of 42.0, 41.1, 38.2, and 37.2 in the Northeast, North Central, South, and West, respectively. The median age of wives at remarriage was 34.6 years for the United States, with the Northeast again having the highest regional figure, 36.6 years. The West followed with a median of 35.6 years, then the South, with 34.1 years, and finally the North Central, where the median was 33.2 years. It may be that variation in proportions of the remarried whose preceding marriage ended in divorce and those who were widowed accounts for part of the differences in age at remarriage, since of course the widowed had an older age distribution than the divorced.

As expected, most of the median ages at first marriage and at remarriage for white husbands and wives were about equal to corresponding figures for all husbands and wives. The greatest difference was found in the Northeast, where the median age at remarriage of all husbands (42.0 years) was less by 2.8 years than the median for white husbands.

For the United States 77.8 percent of nonwhite husbands and 77.4 percent of nonwhite wives included in this study were married for the first time (tables C and 6). For husbands this percent (79.6) was higher in the South than in the remainder of the Nation (75.1); for wives the percent of

Table C. Percent distribution of marriages, by marriage order of husband and of wife according to color and region of residence at marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and color of husband and of wife	Region of residence at marriage					
	Total	North-east	North Central	South	West	
<u>Husband</u>		Percent distribution				
All marriages-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
First marriage-----	81.1	87.2	83.4	79.9	70.8	
Remarriage-----	18.9	12.8	16.6	20.1	29.2	
White-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
First marriage-----	81.4	87.6	83.9	79.9	70.9	
Remarriage-----	18.6	12.4	16.1	20.1	29.1	
Nonwhite-----	100.0	*	¹ 100.0	100.0	*	
First marriage-----	77.8	*	¹ 75.1	79.6	*	
Remarriage-----	22.2	*	¹ 24.9	20.4	*	
<u>Wife</u>						
All marriages-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
First marriage-----	80.1	87.5	82.4	79.0	68.0	
Remarriage-----	19.9	12.5	17.6	21.0	32.0	
White-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
First marriage-----	80.4	87.3	82.9	79.7	67.9	
Remarriage-----	19.6	12.7	17.1	20.3	32.1	
Nonwhite-----	100.0	*	¹ 100.0	100.0	*	
First marriage-----	77.4	*	¹ 79.4	76.1	*	
Remarriage-----	22.6	*	¹ 20.6	23.9	*	

¹Includes figures for Northeast and West Regions.

Source: Tables 4, 5, and 6. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

first married was lower in the South (76.1) than in the remainder of the Nation (79.4).

Median age at first marriage was 23.0 years (36.0 years at remarriage) for nonwhite husbands and 20.1 years at first marriage for nonwhite wives (34.1 years at remarriage) in the Nation as a whole. The median age at first marriage for both nonwhite husbands and wives was slightly lower in the South than in the remainder of the Nation, but median age at remarriage was some-

what higher. Among the age groups shown for the first married (table 6) there was a marked relative excess of wives aged 14-17 years in the South and of wives aged 20-21 years in the other regions.

Comparisons were also made (tables 5 and 6) of marriage order, age at first marriage, and age at remarriage of white and nonwhite husbands and wives for the South and for all other regions. The most marked differences were found between the

Table D. Median age at marriage, by marriage order of husband and of wife, color, and region of residence at marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and color of husband and of wife	Region of residence at marriage				
	Total	North-east	North Central	South	West
<u>HUSBAND</u>					
<u>All marriages</u>					
	Median age				
First marriage-----	23.4	24.3	23.2	22.6	23.3
Remarriage-----	39.1	42.0	41.1	38.2	37.2
<u>White</u>					
First marriage-----	23.4	24.4	23.3	22.5	23.2
Remarriage-----	39.8	44.8	42.0	38.7	36.9
<u>Nonwhite</u>					
First marriage-----	23.0	*	¹ 23.3	22.7	*
Remarriage-----	36.0	*	¹ 35.1	37.0	*
<u>WIFE</u>					
<u>All marriages</u>					
First marriage-----	20.4	21.3	20.4	19.5	20.4
Remarriage-----	34.6	36.6	33.2	34.1	35.6
<u>White</u>					
First marriage-----	20.4	21.3	20.5	19.6	20.2
Remarriage-----	34.6	37.2	33.3	33.9	35.8
<u>Nonwhite</u>					
First marriage-----	20.1	*	¹ 21.2	19.3	*
Remarriage-----	34.1	*	¹ 32.0	35.3	*

¹Includes figures for Northeast and West Regions.

Source: Tables 4, 5, and 6. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

distributions of age at first marriage of nonwhite wives and of white wives in the South. While the median age of nonwhite wives (19.3 years) was only slightly under that for white wives (19.6 years), the proportions of wives aged 14-17, 22-24, and 25 and over were higher for nonwhites than for whites, but the proportion aged 18-21 was higher for whites. In effect, more of the white wives married in the short span of ages, 18-21, while nonwhites married over a longer age span.

Age at marriage and marriage order were also classified by farm or nonfarm residence of the couple at the survey date (table 7). This comparison revealed two notable differences between median marriage ages of couples residing on farms and those with nonfarm residences. Among first-married couples, the survey showed that husbands and wives living on farms married at younger ages than those with nonfarm residences. The median ages at first marriage of farm hus-

bands and wives were only 21.9 and 19.0, respectively, compared with medians of 23.4 and 20.5 for nonfarm husbands and wives (table E).

Both husbands and wives living on farms were older at remarriage than their nonfarm counterparts, but the outstanding difference between the distributions for age at last marriage occurred among wives. Whereas over 45 percent of the wives in the farm couples were in their 40's when they remarried, less than 35 percent of those not living on farms were remarried at 40 years of age or over. Whether this difference between the remarriage ages of farm and nonfarm couples is due to higher proportions of previously widowed among those living on farms or to longer durations of earlier marriages for those previously divorced cannot be determined from these data.

Table E. Median age at marriage, by marriage order of husband and of wife and residence at survey date: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order of husband and of wife	Residence		
	Total	Non-farm	Farm
Husband			
	Median age		
First marriage-----	23.4	23.4	21.9
Remarriage-----	39.1	38.8	42.6
Wife			
First marriage-----	20.4	20.5	19.0
Remarriage-----	34.6	34.5	36.2

Source: Table 7. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

Status of Husband as Head of Household

Another characteristic which the Survey determined was the number of recently married husbands who were heads of their own households and the number of husbands who were not heads of households at the time of the Survey (tables 8, 9, F, and G).

Of the 3,296,000 couples in which the husbands were heads of their households, 80.2 percent of the husbands were married for the first time and 19.8 percent were remarried; among wives whose husbands were heads of households, 78.9 percent were first married and 21.1 percent were remarried. However, of the 395,000 couples in which the husbands were not heads of households, 88.1 percent of the husbands and 90.2 percent of the wives were married for the first time.

First-married husbands who were heads of households were older in median age at marriage (23.5 years) than those who were not heads of households (21.7 years). First-married wives whose husbands were heads of households were also older at marriage (20.6 years) than those married to persons not heads of households (19.2 years). The differences between ages at first marriage of persons who were heads of households and those not heads of households were approximately equal for white and nonwhite husbands (table G), but the corresponding difference was greater for nonwhite than for white wives.

The median age at marriage of remarried husbands who were heads of households was 39.4 years; for remarried husbands who were not heads of households the median age was 35.6 years. Corresponding median ages for remarried wives whose husbands were heads of households and for wives whose husbands were not heads of households were 34.9 and 28.4 years. Among remarried white husbands and remarried white wives, the differences in median ages when the husband was head of the household and when he was not head of the household were similar to corresponding differences for all remarried husbands and wives.

In the case of nonwhite remarried husbands and to a lesser degree wives, these differences in median ages were smaller. The medians were 36.3 years for nonwhite husbands who were heads of households and 34.5 years for those not heads of households. For nonwhite wives whose husbands were heads of households, the median age was 34.3 years, but for wives whose husbands were not heads of households, it was only 29.0 years.

Table F. Percent distribution of marriages, by marriage order of husband and of wife according to year of marriage and household status of husband at survey date: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Household status of husband and marriage order of husband and of wife	Year of marriage				
	Total	1958	1957	1956	1955
<u>All marriages</u>					
Percent distribution					
Total-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband-head of household-----	89.3	82.6	85.9	90.8	93.8
Husband-not head of household-----	10.7	17.4	14.1	9.2	6.2
<u>Husband-head of household</u>					
Marriage order of husband-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First marriage-----	80.2	69.6	79.7	80.3	84.4
Remarriage-----	19.8	30.4	20.3	19.7	15.6
Marriage order of wife-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First marriage-----	78.9	69.2	74.2	81.0	84.4
Remarriage-----	21.1	30.8	25.8	19.0	15.6
<u>Husband-not head of household</u>					
Marriage order of husband-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First marriage-----	88.1	90.1	84.3	85.7	97.7
Remarriage-----	11.9	9.9	15.7	14.3	2.3
Marriage order of wife-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First marriage-----	90.2	90.2	90.0	88.6	93.3
Remarriage-----	9.8	9.8	10.0	11.4	6.7

Source: Table 8. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND AND LABOR FORCE STATUS OF WIFE

The conducting of an interview survey offered a unique opportunity to secure more complete data on the occupations of husbands and the labor force statuses of wives among these recently married couples than are available on most marriage records, since on many marriage certificates such

data are either not requested or are secured only to a limited degree. The data from this Survey, presented in tables 10-16 and H-O, are shown in several perspectives. First, differences are analyzed in the distributions of major occupation groups of husbands and of the labor force and employment statuses of wives as related to the demographic variables, marriage order, age at first marriage, and age at remarriage. Next, variations are presented in major occupations of husbands and labor force statuses of wives by

Table G. Median age at marriage, by marriage order of husband and of wife, color, and household status of husband at survey date: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and color of husband and of wife	Household status of husband at survey date		
	Total	Head of household	Not head of household
<u>HUSBAND</u>			
<u>Total</u>			
	Median age		
First marriage-----	23.4	23.5	21.7
Remarriage-----	39.1	39.4	35.6
<u>White</u>			
First marriage-----	23.4	23.5	21.8
Remarriage-----	39.8	40.1	36.0
<u>Nonwhite</u>			
First marriage-----	23.0	23.4	21.5
Remarriage-----	36.0	36.3	34.5
<u>WIFE</u>			
<u>Total</u>			
First marriage-----	20.4	20.6	19.2
Remarriage-----	34.6	34.9	28.4
<u>White</u>			
First marriage-----	20.4	20.5	19.4
Remarriage-----	34.6	34.9	28.2
<u>Nonwhite</u>			
First marriage-----	20.1	21.0	18.7
Remarriage-----	34.1	34.3	29.0

Source: Table 9. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

status of the husband as head of a household and by marriage order of both husband and wife (tables 13, 14, L, and M). Finally, the distributions of major occupations of husbands are presented as they vary by marriage order, color, and region of residence at marriage of the husband. In essence, then, these tables present the same variables discussed in the preceding section, but cross-tabulated by husbands' occupations and wives' labor force and employment statuses.

Age and Marriage Order by Occupation of Husband

Among couples classified by major occupation group of husband, the median age at first marriage of husbands was highest (24.3 years) among managers, officials, and proprietors, and was next highest (24.1 years) for sales workers and for professional, technical, and kindred workers. It was lowest (22.4 years) for the categories including

Table H. Median age at marriage, by major occupation group of husband at survey date and marriage order of husband and of wife: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband	Marriage order			
	Husband		Wife	
	First marriage	Remarriage	First marriage	Remarriage
	Median age			
All occupation groups-----	23.4	39.1	20.4	34.6
Professional, technical, and kindred workers-----	24.1	36.5	21.6	31.0
Farmers and farm laborers-----	22.4	43.4	19.2	36.4
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	24.3	42.2	20.8	36.5
Clerical and kindred workers-----	23.5	36.3	21.0	28.4
Sales workers-----	24.1	39.2	21.3	34.1
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers---	23.8	38.3	20.4	33.6
Operatives and kindred workers-----	22.5	31.5	19.6	32.7
Service workers-----	23.6	41.9	20.8	32.8
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	22.4	38.5	19.5	36.6
Husband not in labor force-----	23.2	50+	20.8	40+

Source: Table 10. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

farmers, farm laborers, and laborers other than farm and mine, and it was next lowest (22.5 years) for operatives and kindred workers. The median age at first marriage of wives was highest (21.6 years) for those marrying professional workers, next highest (21.3 years) for those marrying sales workers, lowest (19.2 years) for those marrying farmers, and next lowest (19.5 years) for those marrying laborers.

Oldest ages at remarriage for husbands, except those not in the labor force, were found when these husbands were farmers, managers, and service workers. Youngest ages at remarriage occurred when the husbands were operatives, and the next youngest were found in clerical and professional occupations. Oldest ages at remarriage for wives were found when the husbands were laborers, managers, and farmers (excluding husbands not in the labor force); youngest ages occurred when the husbands were clerical and professional workers and operatives.

Employment Status of Wife

The classification of wives by employment status (tables 10 and J) indicates that 34.8 percent of all wives were employed when the Survey was made and 4.0 percent were unemployed (seeking work but not working). A total of 60.2 percent were not in the labor force but were keeping house, while 1.0 percent were neither in the labor force nor keeping house, the majority of these being in school. By major occupation groups of the husbands, the percent of wives employed varied from 44.9 for wives whose husbands were not in the labor force and 43.3 for wives of sales workers down to 28.0 percent for wives of farmers and 26.7 for wives of laborers. Percents of unemployed wives varied from 5.5 and 5.4 for wives of farmers and laborers down to 2.2 percent for wives of husbands not in the labor force. Only trivial numbers of unemployed wives if any, due to sampling variability, were married to managers.

The overall proportion of wives in the labor force was lowest for husbands who were farmers (33.5) and for those who were laborers (32.1), despite the likelihood that many incomes are low in these occupational categories. The percents of wives in the labor force were higher than average for all white-collar occupational categories of husbands except managers, officials, and proprietors, possibly because the wives in these families are better trained in occupational skills. (This is not taking into consideration wives whose husbands were not in the labor force, 47.1 percent of whom were themselves members of the labor force.)

Median age at first marriage (table K) was 23.7 years for husbands whose wives were in the labor force and slightly less (23.1 years) for those

whose wives were not. Median age at first marriage of wives in the labor force (21.1 years) was more than one year older than that of first-married wives who were not in the labor force (19.8 years). In almost all cases among the major occupation groups, the median age of both the husband and of the wife at first marriage was younger if the wife was not in the labor force. This was most marked when husbands were farmers or clerical workers. Among farmers these differences resulted chiefly from an unusually large number of young wives not in the labor force. Among clerical workers, on the other hand, there was a relative deficiency of younger wives among couples in which the wife was in the labor force.

Although first-married couples in which the wife was in the labor force were older at mar-

Table J. Percent distribution of employment status of wife, by major occupation group of husband at survey date: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband	Employment status of wife						
	All wives	In labor force			Not in labor force		
		Total	Employed	Un-employed	Total	Keeping house	Other
	Percent distribution						
All occupation groups-	100.0	38.8	34.8	4.0	61.2	60.2	1.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers-----	100.0	41.5	38.1	3.4	58.5	56.8	1.7
Farmers and farm laborers-----	100.0	33.5	28.0	5.5	66.5	65.3	1.1
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	100.0	34.2	34.2	-	65.8	65.8	-
Clerical and kindred workers-----	100.0	43.2	40.6	2.6	56.8	54.0	2.8
Sales workers-----	100.0	48.3	43.3	5.0	51.7	51.0	0.7
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers-----	100.0	37.4	33.0	4.4	62.6	61.9	0.7
Operatives and kindred workers-----	100.0	37.7	33.2	4.4	62.3	61.4	0.9
Service workers-----	100.0	43.7	40.0	3.8	56.3	55.5	0.8
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	100.0	32.1	26.7	5.4	67.9	67.9	-
Husband not in labor force-----	100.0	47.1	44.9	2.2	52.9	50.6	2.3

Source: Table 10. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

Table K. Median age at marriage, by major occupation group of husband at date of survey, labor force status of wife at survey date, and marriage order of husband and of wife: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Labor force status of wife and major occupation group of husband	Marriage order			
	Husband		Wife	
	First marriage	Remarriage	First marriage	Remarriage
<u>Wife in labor force</u>	Median age			
All occupation groups-----	23.7	38.4	21.1	34.2
Professional, technical, and kindred workers-----	24.3	33.2	21.8	35+
Farmers and farm laborers-----	24.3	39.7	20.6	30.8
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	25.3	40+	21.1	35+
Clerical and kindred workers-----	24.4	36.6	21.9	27.0
Sales workers-----	23.9	37.9	21.6	35+
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers---	23.8	40+	20.7	34.0
Operatives and kindred workers-----	22.7	33.8	19.9	33.5
Service workers-----	23.5	40+	21.3	30.4
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	23.0	39.5	20.1	35+
Husband not in labor force-----	23.6	40+	20.7	35+
<u>Wife not in labor force</u>				
All occupation groups-----	23.1	38.7	19.8	34.6
Professional, technical, and kindred workers-----	24.0	34.5	21.3	28.7
Farmers and farm laborers-----	21.2	40+	18.4	35+
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	24.0	40+	20.6	35+
Clerical and kindred workers-----	22.8	31.7	19.8	31.4
Sales workers-----	24.3	39.5	20.8	30.8
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers---	23.8	35.6	20.1	31.2
Operatives and kindred workers-----	22.4	30.9	18.9	30.8
Service workers-----	23.6	40+	20.0	35+
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	22.2	35.8	19.1	35+
Husband not in labor force-----	21.5	40+	20.9	35+

Source: Table 11. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

riage than those in which the wife did not work, remarried wives who were in the labor force had a somewhat lower median age (34.2 years) than remarried wives not in the labor force (34.6

years). Also, remarried husbands of wives in the labor force were younger (38.4 years) than remarried husbands whose wives were not in the labor force (38.7 years).

Table L. Percent distribution of marriages, by major occupation group of husband at date of survey according to marriage order of husband and wife and labor force status of wife: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Labor force status of wife and major occupation group of husband	Marriage order of husband and wife			
	Both first married	Wife only remarried	Husband only remarried	Both remarried
<u>Wife in labor force</u>				
Percent distribution				
All occupation groups-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers--	17.2	3.3	13.5	6.7
Farmers and farm laborers-----	5.5	10.0	5.2	4.4
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	4.1	7.3	11.8	8.2
Clerical and kindred workers-----	9.9	15.8	7.0	3.5
Sales workers-----	7.8	3.7	6.4	5.9
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers----	16.4	17.6	5.2	22.8
Operatives and kindred workers-----	21.9	19.3	28.7	24.5
Service workers-----	4.4	10.8	8.8	8.1
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	8.2	10.6	11.9	9.8
Husband not in labor force-----	4.6	1.6	1.5	6.3
<u>Wife not in labor force</u>				
All occupation groups-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers--	14.1	10.9	2.5	9.8
Farmers and farm laborers-----	7.3	4.5	6.8	6.7
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	5.9	5.4	13.0	9.2
Clerical and kindred workers-----	8.9	5.1	2.5	2.8
Sales workers-----	4.9	6.9	1.4	4.9
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers----	16.5	25.1	23.4	20.6
Operatives and kindred workers-----	24.2	26.2	23.9	17.9
Service workers-----	4.2	4.2	6.3	7.0
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	12.6	10.6	14.4	7.0
Husband not in labor force-----	1.6	0.9	5.9	14.1

Source: Table 12. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

Occupational Distributions of Husbands by Marriage Order

In table L the occupational distribution of husbands is shown for each marriage-order combination of husband and wife. Operatives and craftsmen were the largest proportions in two combinations with the wife in the labor force and were the largest in all four combinations with the wife not in the labor force. Comparisons of the

percentages among the four marriage-order groups show the following:

1. First-married couples included relatively large percentages of husbands in professional occupations whether the wife was in the labor force or not. They also included relatively large proportions of sales-worker husbands whose wives were in the labor force, and in couples with the wife not in the labor force they included a large per-

cent of husbands who were farmers or clerical workers.

2. Couples in which only the wife was remarried included relatively large proportions of husbands who were farmers, clerical workers, and service workers whose wives were in the labor force, and large proportions of sales workers, craftsmen, and operatives whose wives were not in the labor force.
3. Those couples in which only the husband was remarried included relatively large proportions of husbands who were managers and laborers whether the wife was in the labor force or not. Husbands who were operatives and whose wives were in the labor force were also found in large proportions.
4. Couples in which both partners were remarried included a relatively large per-

cent of husbands not in the labor force, whether the wife was in the labor force or not. They also included a large proportion of craftsmen with wives in the labor force and a large number of service workers with wives not in the labor force.

By status of husband as head of household.—

Compared with husbands who were not heads of households, large proportions of first-married husbands who were heads of their households (tables 13 and M) were professional and clerical workers. Remarried heads of households, however, were relatively more often managers, craftsmen, and men not in the labor force than either first-married heads of households or husbands who were not heads of households. First-married husbands who were not heads of their households were more frequently farm workers and laborers than were first-married heads of households, while remarried husbands who were

Table M. Percent distribution of marriages, by major occupation group of husband at survey date according to marriage order of husband and household status: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband	Household status and marriage order of husband			
	Head of household		Not head of household	
	First marriage	Remarriage	First marriage	Remarriage
All occupation groups-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers-----	15.7	8.2	6.6	6.0
Farmers and farm laborers-----	6.0	5.8	11.6	5.5
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm-----	5.7	10.3	2.5	3.3
Clerical and kindred workers-----	9.8	3.5	5.3	3.1
Sales workers-----	6.1	4.7	5.0	6.2
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers---	17.0	19.9	16.1	18.5
Operatives and kindred workers-----	23.1	21.2	25.1	38.6
Service workers-----	4.2	7.3	6.0	9.6
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	9.8	10.0	19.6	5.9
Husband not in labor force-----	2.6	9.0	2.2	3.3

Source: Table 13. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

Table N. Percent distribution of marriages, by labor force status of wife at date of survey according to marriage order of wife and household status of husband: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Household status of husband and labor force status of wife	Marriage order of wife	
	First marriage	Remarriage
<u>Husband-head of household</u>	Percent distribution	
Total-----	100.0	100.0
Wife in labor force-----	37.9	43.1
Wife not in labor force-----	62.1	56.9
<u>Husband-not head of household</u>		
Total-----	100.0	100.0
Wife in labor force-----	36.2	42.8
Wife not in labor force-----	63.8	57.2

Source: Table 14. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded from computations.

not heads of households were found to be in the operative and service-worker occupations with relatively greater frequency. Larger proportions of remarried than of first-married wives were in the labor force, whether or not they were married to husbands who were heads of households (tables 14 and N).

By residence and color.—The occupational distributions of husbands (at the date of survey) by region of residence at marriage and by marriage order are presented as frequencies (table 15) and percents (table O) for all husbands as well as for white and nonwhite husbands.

Professional work was the occupation of 13.4 percent of all husbands and of 14.7 percent of all first-married men, but only 8.1 percent of the

remarried husbands were professional workers. In the West, both first-married and remarried husbands included larger proportions of professional workers than any other region of residence at marriage. Relatively few remarried husbands in the Northeast and North Central were in this major occupation group. The South had the smallest percent of first-married husbands in professional occupations, and this percent was approximately equal to that of remarried professional husbands in the South.

Representation of professional workers among white husbands by marriage order and by region showed differences similar to those noted for all husbands. Among all nonwhite first-married husbands, 5.8 percent were professional workers; the regional percents were 3.3 in the South and 10.6 in the remainder of the Nation.

In contrast to professional workers, the proportion of all first-married husbands (5.4 percent) who were nonfarm managers, officials, and proprietors was little more than one-half the percent of this occupational group among the remarried (9.9). The highest percent (7.6) for the first married was reported in the Northeast, and the lowest percent (3.9) was in the North Central Region. Among the remarried the largest proportion (15.5) in this occupation was found in the West, the smallest proportion (6.0), in the North Central. Median ages at both first and remarriage of husbands in this occupational category (table K) were a year or more higher than medians for all husbands.

Almost one in 10 of all first-married husbands but only 3.5 percent of the remarried were in clerical and related occupations. The highest percent of first-married (10.4) and the lowest percent of remarried (2.5) husbands in these occupations were found in the Northeast. The smallest percent of first-married (6.8) and the largest percent of remarried (4.2) members of this group were living in the West at the time of marriage.

Differences between percents in the other major occupation groups of first-married and of remarried husbands (table O) were not as great proportionally as the differences discussed above, with one exception—husbands in service occupations. The percent of the remarried in these occupations (7.3) was 70 percent greater than the corresponding percent (4.3) for the first married.

Forty percent of all first-married husbands and 42 percent of remarried husbands were craftsmen, foremen, operatives, and related workers. Compared to the remarried, first-married husbands were found relatively most often to be professional, technical and related workers, clerical and related workers, and sales workers; conversely, the remarried were most often managers, officials and proprietors, craftsmen, foremen, and related workers, and service workers.

By region of residence at marriage, the percent of first-married husbands who were sales workers was highest in the North Central; the percents who were in farming occupations and in operative and related lines of work were highest in the South; percents who were craftsmen, foremen, and related workers, and nonfarm laborers were highest in the West; and the percent who were service workers was highest in the Northeast.

The percents of remarried husbands who were salesmen and craftsmen, foremen, and related workers were highest in the West; the percent in farming occupations was highest in the North Central, and percents in all three blue-collar categories of operatives, service workers, and laborers were highest in the Northeast.

Six of the nine occupational groups are distributed proportionally among white first-married and white remarried husbands in percents approximating those for all husbands. Of the three occupation groups which include the largest overall percents of nonwhite husbands, operatives are found in larger proportions among first-married than among remarried nonwhite husbands, but in almost equal proportions among first-married and remarried white husbands. The farming occupations are represented in greater proportion among remarried than among first-married white husbands, but the opposite is true for first-married and remarried nonwhite husbands. Laborers, by contrast, are found in greater proportions among remarried than among first-married nonwhite husbands; hence, the percent of white first-married husbands who were laborers (9.3) was over 60 percent greater than the 5.7 percent of remarried white husbands who were laborers.

The overall picture for nonwhite husbands as a group indicates that their occupations differ not only from those of white husbands, but

differ by marriage order. The white-collar occupational categories are represented with relatively greatest frequency among nonwhite first-married husbands residing outside the South at marriage, except that managers, though not very numerous among nonwhite husbands, are relatively most often found among remarried husbands outside the South. Nonwhite husbands who are farmers and farm laborers are concentrated in the South and among the first married; craftsmen are found relatively most frequently among nonwhite husbands outside the South, particularly among remarried husbands, while nonwhite husbands who are operatives are found in higher proportions among the first married and in the South. Nonwhite husbands who are service workers and laborers are found in higher proportions among the remarried, but in approximately equal proportions in the South and in the remainder of the Nation.

HIGHLIGHTS

The estimated total of couples married between January 1955 and June 1958 was 3,692,000—69 percent of the 5,324,700 marriages which occurred in the Nation during the same period, as estimated from marriage records. The latter but not the former population includes marriages beginning and ending during the period and couples married during the period who were not living in the same household at the time of the Survey. Statistics from the two populations may be similar, but are not expected to be equivalent.

Median age at marriage (23.1 years) of husbands in couples in which both partners were first married was almost 3 years higher than the 20.3-year median for their wives. The interquartile age range for these husbands was 5.7 years; for wives, it was 4.5 years. For couples in which both were remarried, the median age of husbands (42.7 years) at the most recent marriage was more than 4 years older than the 38.1-year median for their wives.

Just over 80 percent of all husbands and wives were married for the first time. This percent was largest for those living in the Northeast when married and smallest in the West. Median ages at first marriage were highest in the

Table O. Percent distribution of marriages, by major occupation group of husband at of husband: United States,

Marriage order, region of residence at marriage, and color of husband	Major occupation group of husband			
	All occupation groups	Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm laborers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm
	Percent distribution			
All husbands-----	100.0	13.4	6.5	6.2
First marriage-----	100.0	14.7	6.7	5.4
Northeast-----	100.0	17.9	1.4	7.6
North Central-----	100.0	16.1	6.7	3.9
South-----	100.0	8.5	10.2	4.7
West-----	100.0	19.3	8.4	5.4
Remarriage-----	100.0	8.1	5.9	9.9
Northeast-----	100.0	4.9	3.8	7.3
North Central-----	100.0	6.5	11.0	6.0
South-----	100.0	8.7	5.6	10.0
West-----	100.0	11.0	2.5	15.5
White-----	100.0	14.4	5.8	6.8
First marriage-----	100.0	15.6	5.7	5.9
Northeast-----	100.0	17.8	1.5	8.0
North Central-----	100.0	16.8	7.0	4.1
South-----	100.0	9.8	6.9	5.9
West-----	100.0	19.8	8.3	5.3
Remarriage-----	100.0	9.2	6.2	10.8
Northeast-----	100.0	5.4	4.2	8.1
North Central-----	100.0	7.1	12.1	5.6
South-----	100.0	10.9	5.6	12.5
West-----	100.0	11.8	2.6	15.8
Nonwhite-----	100.0	4.5	13.3	1.3
First marriage-----	100.0	5.8	16.3	0.6
South-----	100.0	3.3	23.3	-
All other-----	100.0	10.6	2.4	1.9
Remarriage-----	100.0	-	3.3	3.5
South-----	100.0	-	6.0	-
All other-----	100.0	-	-	7.8

Source: Table 15. Cases for which marriage order was not stated were excluded

date of survey according to marriage order, region of residence at marriage, and color
January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband

Clerical and kindred workers	Sales workers	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kindred workers	Service workers	Laborers, except farm and mine	Husband not in labor force
Percent distribution						
8.3	5.8	17.4	23.1	4.9	10.6	3.8
9.4	6.0	16.9	23.3	4.3	10.8	2.6
10.4	6.3	17.6	22.7	5.4	9.2	1.5
9.8	6.8	14.6	23.6	4.1	11.0	3.3
9.4	5.6	15.3	28.1	3.6	11.6	3.1
6.8	4.9	22.9	13.9	4.4	11.8	2.0
3.5	4.9	19.8	22.4	7.3	9.4	8.7
2.5	3.7	15.4	28.7	10.5	11.9	11.3
3.7	5.0	20.1	26.2	4.3	7.7	9.5
3.4	4.6	20.7	18.0	8.1	10.9	10.0
4.2	5.9	21.3	20.0	7.3	7.6	4.7
8.5	6.2	18.6	22.8	4.3	8.7	3.8
9.6	6.4	18.2	22.8	3.8	9.3	2.6
10.1	6.4	18.2	22.2	5.5	8.9	1.4
9.6	6.8	15.1	23.7	3.4	9.9	3.4
10.9	6.7	18.3	27.8	2.1	8.3	3.3
6.4	5.2	24.0	13.5	4.6	10.9	2.1
3.5	5.6	20.3	23.0	6.6	5.7	9.1
2.7	4.1	14.2	28.8	11.6	8.4	12.5
3.2	5.5	19.6	28.0	3.8	4.7	10.5
4.2	5.8	23.0	16.8	6.7	5.1	9.6
3.6	6.3	21.8	21.4	6.1	5.7	5.0
6.4	1.8	6.8	25.7	9.8	27.4	3.1
7.3	2.3	3.9	28.0	8.9	24.8	2.2
3.5	1.1	3.5	29.2	9.3	24.4	2.5
14.8	4.6	4.8	25.7	8.1	25.5	1.6
3.6	-	16.5	17.6	12.7	36.5	6.2
-	-	11.6	23.0	13.9	34.1	11.4
7.8	-	22.4	11.2	11.3	39.5	-

from computations.

Northeast and lowest in the South. Median ages at remarriage for husbands varied from 42.0 in the Northeast to 37.2 in the West; for wives, from 36.6 in the Northeast to 33.2 in the North Central Region.

Proportions of first and remarriages for white husbands and wives were about equal to corresponding estimates for all husbands and wives. In the South the proportion of nonwhite husbands remarried was smaller than in the remainder of the Nation, but for wives it was larger. First-married husbands were 3 years older in median age than first-married wives. The median age of remarried husbands was more than 4 years greater than that of remarried wives. Median ages of first-married husbands varied from the 24.3 years of those living in the Northeast when married down to 22.6 years for those in the South. Median ages at remarriage varied from 42.0 for the Northeast to 37.2 for the West. Among wives, median ages for both the first married and the remarried were highest in the Northeast; they were lowest for the first married in the South and for the remarried in the North Central Region. Among nonwhite husbands and wives, median ages of the first married were younger and those of the remarried were older in the South.

Median ages of the first married were younger for farm than for nonfarm residents, but remarried farm residents were older at marriage.

The 11 percent of husbands who were not heads of their households included a higher percent of first-married persons than did the head-of-household category. Their median age at marriage was also lower whether they were first or remarried.

Median age at marriage of first-married husbands was oldest in the manager-official-proprietor occupations and youngest in farming and in nonfarm laborer groups. First-married wives were oldest when married to husbands in professional-technical occupations, and youngest when married to husbands in the farming occupations.

Comparisons of first-married couples with remarried couples indicated that professional and clerical workers were markedly overrepresented among husbands in the former group, while managers, craftsmen, service workers, and husbands not in the labor force were overrepresented in remarried couples. Husbands in operative and laborer occupations were overrepresented among the remarried couples if the wife was in the labor force, but among the first married if the wife was not in the labor force.

Percents of wives in the labor force were above average in couples with husbands not in the labor force and in each of the white-collar occupation groups. These percents were smallest among wives of husbands in farming or nonfarm laborer groups. In most occupation categories, median ages for both husbands and wives at first marriage were either equal to or lower when the wives were not in the labor force than the median ages when they were. Median ages at remarriage were 0.3 years higher for husbands and 0.4 years higher for wives when the wife was not in the labor force than when the wife was in the labor force.

The West was characterized by high proportions of both first- and remarried husbands in professional-technical and craftsman-foreman occupations, as well as by higher proportions than any other region of remarried husbands in the four white-collar categories. The Northeast Region led in percents of first-married husbands in manager-official-proprietor and clerical groups as well as in percents of remarried husbands in three of the four nonfarm blue-collar groups, and of those not in the labor force. The South showed a higher proportion than any other region of first-married husbands in farming and operative work. The North Central Region led all other regions in proportions of first-married husbands in sales work and in the small category "not in the labor force." It also led in the proportion of remarried in farming occupations.



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Table 1. Number of marriages, by marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife and year of marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife	Year of marriage				
	Total	1958	1957	1956	1955
	Number of marriages				
All marriages-----	3,691,560	442,610	1,061,310	1,090,760	1,096,880
<u>Husband</u>					
First marriage-----	2,982,730	323,900	848,810	876,340	933,680
14-19 years-----	459,980	38,590	133,020	131,820	156,550
20-21 years-----	659,570	86,530	191,280	210,470	171,290
22-24 years-----	826,090	72,210	209,630	240,030	304,220
25-29 years-----	700,500	84,130	213,590	188,450	214,330
30-34 years-----	178,660	16,830	55,020	60,440	46,370
35+ years-----	157,930	25,610	46,270	45,130	40,920
Remarriage-----	697,030	118,710	208,030	208,460	161,830
14-29 years-----	171,760	21,960	49,070	48,100	52,630
30-34 years-----	98,860	20,230	21,410	30,940	26,280
35-39 years-----	95,820	17,200	25,940	26,710	25,970
40-49 years-----	155,130	24,290	60,010	40,910	29,920
50-54 years-----	55,010	11,270	11,180	22,670	9,890
55+ years-----	120,450	23,760	40,420	39,130	17,140
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	-	4,470	5,960	1,370
<u>Wife</u>					
First marriage-----	2,951,270	322,620	808,750	889,070	930,830
14-17 years-----	559,900	42,510	156,670	170,930	189,790
18-19 years-----	777,240	97,110	201,490	221,080	257,560
20-21 years-----	678,940	67,220	174,260	230,690	206,770
22-24 years-----	498,660	51,760	145,810	141,480	159,610
25-29 years-----	272,180	37,320	76,730	75,780	82,350
30+ years-----	164,350	26,700	53,790	49,110	34,750
Remarriage-----	732,940	119,990	249,680	198,660	164,610
14-29 years-----	250,250	25,720	100,960	67,620	55,950
30-34 years-----	126,110	16,700	41,660	27,610	40,140
35-39 years-----	106,520	22,370	27,260	24,730	32,160
40-44 years-----	80,350	15,190	32,430	22,390	10,340
45-49 years-----	46,930	14,700	10,140	19,160	2,930
50-54 years-----	46,990	10,150	14,830	10,440	11,570
55+ years-----	75,790	15,160	22,400	26,710	11,520
Marriage order not stated-----	7,350	-	2,880	3,030	1,440

Table 2. Number of marriages, by age of husband at first marriage and age of wife at first marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Age of husband at first marriage	Age of wife at first marriage						
	Total	14-17 years	18-19 years	20-21 years	22-24 years	25-29 years	30+ years
	Number of marriages						
All ages-14+ years-----	2,741,610	541,490	733,660	637,560	469,970	245,720	113,210
14-19 years-----	455,010	240,460	163,510	43,360	7,680	-	-
20-21 years-----	638,120	157,000	237,720	181,110	48,270	14,020	-
22-24 years-----	787,270	94,040	237,390	232,500	189,100	31,100	3,140
25-29 years-----	626,440	42,600	88,820	149,280	183,680	136,930	25,130
30+ years-----	234,770	7,390	6,220	31,310	41,240	63,670	84,940

Table 3. Number of marriages with one or both spouses remarried, by age of husband at last marriage and age of wife at last marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order of husband and of wife and age of husband at last marriage	Age of wife at last marriage			
	Total	14-29 years	30-39 years	40+ years
	Number of marriages			
<u>Husband only remarried</u>				
All ages-----	205,140	154,000	¹ 51,140	*
14-29 years-----	85,860	84,170	¹ 1,690	*
30-39 years-----	68,000	60,770	¹ 7,230	*
40+ years-----	51,280	9,060	¹ 42,220	*
<u>Wife only remarried</u>				
All ages-----	239,680	121,470	¹ 118,210	*
14-29 years-----	137,860	100,110	¹ 37,750	*
30-39 years-----	57,280	18,150	¹ 39,130	*
40+ years-----	44,540	3,210	¹ 41,330	*
<u>Both spouses remarried</u>				
All ages-----	491,890	128,780	143,910	219,200
14-29 years-----	85,900	64,080	18,850	2,970
30-39 years-----	126,680	45,860	63,140	17,680
40-54 years-----	177,950	17,410	61,920	98,620
55+ years-----	101,360	1,430	-	99,930
<u>Marriage order not stated</u>				
All ages-----	² 13,240	4,520	1,370	-

¹Wives "30+ years."

²Includes 7,350 cases in which marriage order of wife was not stated.

Table 4. Number of marriages, by marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife and region of residence at marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife	Region of residence at marriage				
	Total	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Number of marriages				
All marriages-----	3,691,560	901,880	1,020,260	1,131,200	638,220
<u>Husband</u>					
First marriage-----	2,982,730	782,630	848,230	899,920	451,950
14-19 years-----	459,980	67,680	132,120	197,950	62,230
20-21 years-----	659,570	156,040	192,970	203,480	107,080
22-24 years-----	826,090	212,510	238,550	247,070	127,960
25-29 years-----	700,500	244,690	190,170	172,210	93,430
30-34 years-----	178,660	60,480	58,260	35,820	24,100
35+ years-----	157,930	41,230	36,160	43,390	37,150
Remarriage-----	697,030	114,750	169,130	226,880	186,270
14-29 years-----	171,760	21,580	35,550	61,670	52,960
30-34 years-----	98,860	10,480	27,580	31,980	28,820
35-39 years-----	95,820	21,300	16,940	31,340	26,240
40-49 years-----	155,130	19,340	38,120	48,610	49,060
50+ years-----	175,460	42,050	50,940	53,280	29,190
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	4,500	2,900	4,400	-
<u>Wife</u>					
First marriage-----	2,951,270	787,990	839,540	889,960	433,780
14-17 years-----	559,900	80,960	129,610	246,500	102,830
18-19 years-----	777,240	177,690	244,830	258,270	96,450
20-21 years-----	678,940	204,420	206,010	175,940	92,570
22-24 years-----	498,660	163,910	150,260	101,100	83,390
25-29 years-----	272,180	105,360	62,310	60,500	44,010
30+ years-----	164,350	55,650	46,520	47,650	14,530
Remarriage-----	732,940	112,460	179,270	236,770	204,440
14-29 years-----	250,250	41,840	72,330	76,390	59,690
30-34 years-----	126,110	9,140	27,090	50,810	39,070
35-39 years-----	106,520	15,970	10,140	49,350	31,060
40-49 years-----	127,280	18,490	37,150	25,090	46,550
50+ years-----	122,780	27,020	32,560	35,130	28,070
Marriage order not stated-----	7,350	1,430	1,450	4,470	-

Table 5. Number of marriages, by marriage order and age at marriage of white husband and of white wife and region of residence at marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and age at marriage of white husband and of white wife	Region of residence at marriage				
	Total	Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Number of marriages				
All marriages-----	3,316,560	846,190	966,530	901,480	602,360
<u>White husband</u>					
First marriage-----	2,690,850	737,710	808,820	717,080	427,240
14-19 years-----	405,710	62,660	120,550	160,270	62,230
20-21 years-----	591,600	148,670	180,760	160,350	101,820
22-24 years-----	752,560	196,660	231,180	203,880	120,840
25-29 years-----	636,480	228,010	188,590	134,420	85,460
30-34 years-----	164,250	60,480	53,000	27,910	22,860
35+ years-----	140,250	41,230	34,740	30,250	34,030
Remarriage-----	613,910	103,980	154,810	180,000	175,120
14-29 years-----	141,550	15,190	31,100	45,100	50,160
30-34 years-----	91,500	8,790	24,950	28,940	28,820
35-39 years-----	76,690	18,610	14,390	21,640	22,050
40-49 years-----	142,210	19,340	34,810	43,160	44,900
50+ years-----	161,960	42,050	49,560	41,160	29,190
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	4,500	2,900	4,400	-
<u>White wife</u>					
First marriage-----	2,662,210	737,070	799,730	716,200	409,210
14-17 years-----	481,650	72,860	120,450	187,470	100,870
18-19 years-----	714,220	171,020	230,550	216,200	96,450
20-21 years-----	629,920	188,210	199,880	155,850	85,980
22-24 years-----	449,220	153,620	142,760	76,520	76,320
25-29 years-----	238,140	97,400	60,990	43,450	36,300
30+ years-----	149,060	53,960	45,100	36,710	13,290
Remarriage-----	648,440	107,690	165,350	182,250	193,150
14-29 years-----	216,380	40,080	65,040	55,820	55,440
30-34 years-----	115,990	7,450	27,090	44,970	36,480
35-39 years-----	85,350	14,650	8,820	33,730	28,150
40-49 years-----	114,620	18,490	33,220	16,360	46,550
50+ years-----	116,100	27,020	31,180	31,370	26,530
Marriage order not stated-----	5,910	1,430	1,450	3,030	-

Table 6. Number of marriages, by marriage order and age at marriage of nonwhite husband and of nonwhite wife and region of residence at marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and age at marriage of nonwhite husband and of nonwhite wife	Region of residence at marriage		
	Total	South	All other regions
	Number of marriages		
All marriages-----	375,000	229,720	145,280
<u>Nonwhite husband</u>			
First marriage-----	291,880	182,840	109,040
14-19 years-----	54,270	37,680	16,590
20-21 years-----	67,970	43,130	24,840
22-24 years-----	73,530	43,190	30,340
25-29 years-----	64,020	37,790	26,230
30+ years-----	32,090	21,050	11,040
Remarriage-----	83,120	46,880	36,240
14-29 years-----	30,210	16,570	13,640
30+ years-----	52,910	30,310	22,600
Marriage order not stated-----	-	-	-
<u>Nonwhite wife</u>			
First marriage-----	289,060	173,760	115,300
14-17 years-----	78,250	59,030	19,220
18-19 years-----	63,020	42,070	20,950
20-21 years-----	49,020	20,090	28,930
22-24 years-----	49,440	24,580	24,860
25+ years-----	49,330	27,990	21,340
Remarriage-----	84,500	54,520	29,980
14-29 years-----	33,870	20,570	13,300
30+ years-----	50,630	33,950	16,680
Marriage order not stated-----	1,440	1,440	-

Table 7. Number of marriages, by residence at date of survey and marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife	Residence		
	Total	Nonfarm	Farm
	Number of marriages		
All marriages-----	3,691,560	3,392,420	299,140
<u>Husband</u>			
First marriage-----	2,982,730	2,735,280	247,450
14-19 years-----	459,980	390,590	69,390
20-21 years-----	659,570	602,470	57,100
22-24 years-----	826,090	771,820	54,270
25-29 years-----	700,500	661,490	39,010
30+ years-----	336,590	308,910	27,680
Remarriage-----	697,030	645,340	51,690
14-39 years-----	366,440	343,590	22,850
40+ years-----	330,590	301,750	28,840
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	11,800	-
<u>Wife</u>			
First marriage-----	2,951,270	2,710,110	241,160
14-17 years-----	559,900	476,240	83,660
18-19 years-----	777,240	702,590	74,650
20-21 years-----	678,940	643,730	35,210
22-24 years-----	498,660	474,140	24,520
25+ years-----	436,530	413,410	23,120
Remarriage-----	732,940	674,960	57,980
14-39 years-----	482,880	451,640	31,240
40+ years-----	250,060	223,320	26,740
Marriage order not stated-----	7,350	7,350	-

Table 8. Number of marriages, by household status of husband at date of survey, marriage order of husband and of wife, and year of marriage: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Household status of husband and marriage order of husband and of wife	Year of marriage				
	Total	1958	1957	1956	1955
<u>All marriages</u>	Number of marriages				
Total-----	3,691,560	442,610	1,061,310	1,090,760	1,096,880
Husband-head of household-----	3,296,490	365,580	912,010	989,960	1,028,940
Husband-not head of household-----	395,070	77,030	149,300	100,800	67,940
<u>Husband-head of household</u>					
First marriage of husband-----	2,634,710	254,480	722,960	789,970	867,300
Remarriage of husband-----	649,980	111,100	184,580	194,030	160,270
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	-	4,470	5,960	1,370
First marriage of wife-----	2,594,760	253,140	674,410	799,780	867,430
Remarriage of wife-----	694,380	112,440	234,720	187,150	160,070
Marriage order not stated-----	7,350	-	2,880	3,030	1,440
<u>Husband-not head of household</u>					
First marriage of husband-----	348,020	69,420	125,850	86,370	66,380
Remarriage of husband-----	47,050	7,610	23,450	14,430	1,560
Marriage order not stated-----	-	-	-	-	-
First marriage of wife-----	356,510	69,480	134,340	89,290	63,400
Remarriage of wife-----	38,560	7,550	14,960	11,510	4,540
Marriage order not stated-----	-	-	-	-	-

Table 9. Number of marriages, by household status of husband at date of survey, marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife, and color: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife	Household status of husband at date of survey								
	Total			Head of household			Not head of household		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
	Number of marriages								
All marriages--	3,691,560	3,316,560	375,000	3,296,490	3,005,110	291,380	395,070	311,450	83,620
<u>Husband</u>									
First marriage--	2,982,730	2,690,850	291,880	2,634,710	2,414,690	220,020	348,020	276,160	71,860
14-19 years-----	459,980	405,710	54,270	352,220	321,150	31,070	107,760	84,560	23,200
20-21 years-----	659,570	591,600	67,970	581,940	531,260	50,680	77,630	60,340	17,290
22-24 years-----	826,090	752,560	73,530	760,350	700,670	59,680	65,740	51,890	13,850
25-29 years-----	700,500	636,480	64,020	626,860	580,360	46,500	73,640	56,120	17,520
30+ years-----	336,590	304,500	32,090	313,340	281,250	32,090	23,250	23,250	-
Remarriage-----	697,030	613,910	83,120	649,980	578,620	71,360	47,050	35,290	11,760
14-39 years-----	366,440	309,740	56,700	335,360	287,530	47,830	31,080	22,210	8,870
40+ years-----	330,590	304,170	26,420	314,620	291,090	23,530	15,970	13,080	2,890
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	11,800	-	11,800	11,800	-	-	-	-
<u>Wife</u>									
First marriage--	2,951,270	2,662,210	289,060	2,594,760	2,380,340	214,420	356,510	281,870	74,640
14-17 years-----	559,900	481,650	78,250	444,340	395,890	48,450	115,560	85,760	29,800
18-19 years-----	777,240	714,220	63,020	677,590	635,760	41,830	99,650	78,460	21,190
20-21 years-----	678,940	629,920	49,020	615,260	580,190	35,070	63,680	49,730	13,950
22-24 years-----	498,660	449,220	49,440	463,920	419,250	44,670	34,740	29,970	4,770
25-29 years-----	272,180	238,140	34,040	251,080	220,460	30,620	21,100	17,680	3,420
30+ years-----	164,350	149,060	15,290	142,570	128,790	13,780	21,780	20,270	1,510
Remarriage-----	732,940	648,440	84,500	694,380	618,860	75,520	38,560	29,580	8,980
14-39 years-----	482,880	417,720	65,160	455,780	395,370	60,410	27,100	22,350	4,750
40+ years-----	250,060	230,720	19,340	238,600	223,490	15,110	11,460	7,230	4,230
Marriage order not stated-----	7,350	5,910	1,440	7,350	5,910	1,440	-	-	-

Table 10. Number of marriages, by major occupation group of husband, marriage order and age at January 1955-

Marriage order, age at marriage, and employment status of wife	Major occupation group of husband			
	All occupation groups	Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm laborers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm
	Number of marriages			
All marriages-----	3,691,560	495,240	239,150	228,160
<u>Marriage order and age-husband</u>				
First marriage-----	2,982,730	436,240	197,260	158,170
14-19 years-----	459,980	16,640	53,260	19,810
20-21 years-----	659,570	100,520	39,930	27,350
22-24 years-----	826,090	142,840	40,420	42,120
25-29 years-----	700,500	127,080	36,960	48,800
30+ years-----	336,590	49,160	26,690	20,090
Remarriage-----	697,030	55,950	40,520	68,560
14-39 years-----	366,440	36,240	16,800	28,820
40+ years-----	330,590	19,710	23,720	39,740
Marriage order not stated-----	11,800	3,050	1,370	1,430
<u>Marriage order and age-wife</u>				
First marriage-----	2,951,270	433,540	193,840	168,960
14-17 years-----	559,900	35,190	70,290	24,490
18-19 years-----	777,240	85,220	45,040	41,540
20-21 years-----	678,940	122,260	26,080	44,990
22-24 years-----	498,660	99,240	25,330	31,110
25-29 years-----	272,180	70,640	17,470	12,430
30+ years-----	164,350	20,990	9,630	14,400
Remarriage-----	732,940	60,130	45,310	57,770
14-39 years-----	482,880	44,700	26,350	38,980
40+ years-----	250,060	15,430	18,960	18,790
Marriage order not stated-----	7,350	1,570	-	1,430
<u>Employment status of wife</u>				
Wife in labor force-----	1,431,470	205,350	80,200	78,130
Employed-----	1,285,650	188,520	67,060	78,130
Unemployed-----	145,820	16,830	13,140	-
Wife not in labor force-----	2,260,090	289,890	158,950	150,030
Keeping house-----	2,221,870	281,230	156,230	150,030
Other-----	38,220	8,660	2,720	-

marriage of husband and of wife, and employment status of wife at date of survey: United States, June 1958

Major occupation group of husband						
Clerical and kindred workers	Sales workers	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kindred workers	Service workers	Laborers, except farm and mine	Husband not in labor force
Number of marriages						
301,460	210,930	643,430	852,940	187,370	393,790	139,090
277,130	177,210	503,800	695,800	133,910	326,010	77,200
34,290	21,600	62,160	154,560	14,500	75,550	7,610
54,680	36,270	104,960	164,520	31,890	78,400	21,050
98,390	43,870	143,410	176,600	39,520	74,700	24,220
67,550	52,140	125,680	130,200	32,990	58,940	20,160
22,220	23,330	67,590	69,920	15,010	38,420	4,160
24,330	33,720	138,180	155,680	52,010	67,780	60,300
15,620	17,680	75,230	110,130	22,570	37,280	6,070
8,710	16,040	62,950	45,550	29,440	30,500	54,230
-	-	1,450	1,460	1,450	-	1,590
263,800	170,940	484,230	692,680	131,180	327,850	84,250
32,790	24,800	79,960	165,760	22,310	96,610	7,700
66,820	31,550	140,030	228,120	32,500	87,010	19,410
64,530	45,430	115,430	134,270	27,500	60,200	38,250
58,210	37,830	87,080	85,850	20,090	42,020	11,900
27,790	19,860	33,920	53,490	15,070	19,820	1,690
13,660	11,470	27,810	25,190	13,710	22,190	5,300
37,660	39,990	159,200	158,800	53,300	65,940	54,840
30,110	29,760	119,950	112,970	37,320	41,230	1,510
7,550	10,230	39,250	45,830	15,980	24,710	53,330
-	-	-	1,460	2,890	-	-
130,270	101,780	240,500	321,480	81,940	126,270	65,550
122,470	91,280	212,080	283,580	74,870	105,180	62,480
7,800	10,500	28,420	37,900	7,070	21,090	3,070
171,190	109,150	402,930	531,460	105,430	267,520	73,540
162,850	107,600	398,500	523,570	103,930	267,520	70,410
8,340	1,550	4,430	7,890	1,500	-	3,130

Table 11. Number of marriages, by major occupation group of husband, labor force status of wife
January 1955-

Labor force status of wife, marriage order, and age at marriage of husband and of wife	Major occupation group of husband			
	All occupation groups	Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm laborers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm
<u>WIFE IN LABOR FORCE</u>	Number of marriages			
All marriages-----	1,431,470	205,350	80,200	78,130
<u>Husband</u>				
First marriage-----	1,119,100	178,860	65,820	48,410
14-21 years-----	379,330	49,590	20,820	13,750
22-24 years-----	307,690	52,400	15,830	9,570
25+ years-----	432,080	76,870	29,170	25,090
Remarriage-----	307,900	26,490	14,380	28,290
14-39 years-----	162,230	17,710	7,260	12,000
40+ years-----	145,670	8,780	7,120	16,290
Marriage order not stated-----	4,470	-	-	1,430
<u>Wife</u>				
First marriage-----	1,113,070	187,530	60,920	51,700
14-19 years-----	391,230	35,270	26,700	15,430
20-24 years-----	538,910	112,460	26,040	25,690
25+ years-----	182,930	39,800	8,180	10,580
Remarriage-----	315,530	17,820	19,280	25,000
14-34 years-----	163,850	7,380	11,980	12,110
35+ years-----	151,680	10,440	7,300	12,890
Marriage order not stated-----	2,870	-	-	1,430
<u>WIFE NOT IN LABOR FORCE</u>				
All marriages-----	2,260,090	289,890	158,950	150,030
<u>Husband</u>				
First marriage-----	1,863,630	257,380	131,440	109,760
14-21 years-----	740,220	67,570	72,370	33,410
22-24 years-----	518,400	90,440	24,590	32,550
25+ years-----	605,010	99,370	34,480	43,800
Remarriage-----	389,130	29,460	26,140	40,270
14-39 years-----	204,210	18,530	9,540	16,820
40+ years-----	184,920	10,930	16,600	23,450
Marriage order not stated-----	7,330	3,050	1,370	-
<u>Wife</u>				
First marriage-----	1,838,200	246,010	132,920	117,260
14-19 years-----	945,910	85,140	88,630	50,600
20-24 years-----	638,690	109,040	25,370	50,410
25+ years-----	253,600	51,830	18,920	16,250
Remarriage-----	417,410	42,310	26,030	32,770
14-34 years-----	212,510	29,800	10,010	12,980
35+ years-----	204,900	12,510	16,020	19,790
Marriage order not stated-----	4,480	1,570	-	-

at date of survey, marriage order and age at marriage of husband and of wife: United States, June 1958

Major occupation group of husband						
Clerical and kindred workers	Sales workers	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kindred workers	Service workers	Laborers, except farm and mine	Husband not in labor force
Number of marriages						
130,270	101,780	240,500	321,480	81,940	126,270	65,550
116,550	83,100	184,320	242,460	56,420	94,360	48,800
23,360	27,240	63,860	106,420	19,700	40,970	13,620
43,290	22,580	47,720	61,420	16,740	18,400	19,740
49,900	33,280	72,740	74,620	19,980	34,990	15,440
13,720	18,680	54,730	79,020	25,520	31,910	15,160
7,880	10,050	25,260	51,940	10,860	16,160	3,110
5,840	8,630	29,470	27,080	14,660	15,750	12,050
-	-	1,450	-	-	-	1,590
107,660	85,200	173,590	249,200	52,400	94,670	50,200
19,490	21,390	68,190	125,560	15,580	46,780	16,840
68,670	48,900	79,380	84,840	28,010	32,880	32,040
19,500	14,910	26,020	38,800	8,810	15,010	1,320
22,610	16,580	66,910	72,280	28,100	31,600	15,350
18,200	7,850	34,870	38,730	17,960	14,770	-
4,410	8,730	32,040	33,550	10,140	16,830	15,350
-	-	-	-	1,440	-	-
171,190	109,150	402,930	531,460	105,430	267,520	73,540
160,580	94,110	319,480	453,340	77,490	231,650	28,400
65,610	30,630	103,260	212,660	26,690	112,980	15,040
55,100	21,290	95,690	115,180	22,780	56,300	4,480
39,870	42,190	120,530	125,500	28,020	62,370	8,880
10,610	15,040	83,450	76,660	26,490	35,870	45,140
7,740	7,630	49,970	58,190	11,710	21,120	2,960
2,870	7,410	33,480	18,470	14,780	14,750	42,180
-	-	-	1,460	1,450	-	-
156,140	85,740	310,640	443,480	78,780	233,180	34,050
80,120	34,960	151,800	268,320	39,230	136,840	10,270
54,070	34,360	123,130	135,280	19,580	69,340	18,110
21,950	16,420	35,710	39,880	19,970	27,000	5,670
15,050	23,410	92,290	86,520	25,200	34,340	39,490
8,980	14,460	55,740	53,760	11,890	14,890	-
6,070	8,950	36,550	32,760	13,310	19,450	39,490
-	-	-	1,460	1,450	-	-

Table 12. Number of marriages, by major occupation group of husband, labor force status

Labor force status of wife and marriage order of husband and of wife	Major occupation group of husband			
	All occupation groups	Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm laborers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm
<u>WIFE IN LABOR FORCE</u>				
<u>Marriage order of husband and of wife</u>				
All marriages-----	1,431,470	205,350	80,200	78,130
Husband and wife both first married-----	1,022,690	175,740	56,350	41,430
Husband only remarried-----	87,340	11,790	4,570	10,270
Wife only remarried-----	94,970	3,120	9,470	6,980
Husband and wife both remarried----	220,560	14,700	9,810	18,020
Marriage order not stated-----	5,910	-	-	1,430
<u>WIFE NOT IN LABOR FORCE</u>				
<u>Marriage order of husband and of wife</u>				
All marriages-----	2,260,090	289,890	158,950	150,030
Husband and wife both first married-----	1,718,920	241,610	124,870	102,000
Husband only remarried-----	117,800	2,920	8,050	15,260
Wife only remarried-----	144,710	15,770	6,570	7,760
Husband and wife both remarried----	271,330	26,540	18,090	25,010
Marriage order not stated-----	7,330	3,050	1,370	-

of wife at date of survey, and marriage order: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband						
Clerical and kindred workers	Sales workers	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kindred workers	Service workers	Laborers, except farm and mine	Husband not in labor force
Number of marriages						
130,270	101,780	240,500	321,480	81,940	126,270	65,550
101,550	79,630	167,610	224,130	44,690	84,270	47,290
6,110	5,570	4,530	25,070	7,710	10,400	1,320
15,000	3,470	16,710	18,330	10,290	10,090	1,510
7,610	13,110	50,200	53,950	17,810	21,510	13,840
-	-	1,450	-	1,440	-	1,590
171,190	109,150	402,930	531,460	105,430	267,520	73,540
153,150	84,090	283,120	415,360	71,340	216,270	27,110
2,990	1,650	27,520	28,120	7,440	16,910	6,940
7,430	10,020	36,360	37,980	6,150	15,380	1,290
7,620	13,390	55,930	48,540	19,050	18,960	38,200
-	-	-	1,460	1,450	-	-

Table 13. Number of marriages, by household status and marriage order of husband at date of survey and major occupation group of husband: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband	Household status and marriage order of husband					
	Husband-head of household			Husband-not head of household		
	Total	First marriage	Re-marriage	Total	First marriage	Re-marriage
	Number of marriages					
All occupation groups--	3,283,250	2,633,270	649,980	395,070	348,020	47,050
Professional, technical, and kindred workers-----	466,570	413,430	53,140	25,620	22,810	2,810
Farmers and farm laborers----	194,790	156,850	37,940	42,990	40,410	2,580
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm----	216,380	149,380	67,000	10,350	8,790	1,560
Clerical and kindred workers-	281,530	258,660	22,870	19,930	18,470	1,460
Sales workers-----	190,660	159,880	30,780	20,270	17,330	2,940
Craftmen, foremen, and kindred workers-----	577,350	447,870	129,480	64,630	55,930	8,700
Operatives and kindred workers-----	745,910	608,380	137,530	105,570	87,420	18,150
Service workers-----	159,110	111,630	47,480	25,370	20,840	4,530
Laborers, except farm and mine-----	322,810	257,810	65,000	70,980	68,200	2,780
Not in labor force-----	128,140	69,380	58,760	9,360	7,820	1,540

Table 14. Number of marriages, by household status of husband and labor force status and marriage order of wife at date of survey: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Labor force status and marriage order ¹ of wife	Household status of husband	
	Husband-head of household	Husband-not head of household
	Number of marriages	
All marriages-----	3,283,250	395,070
Wife in labor force-----	1,279,940	145,620
First marriage-----	980,930	129,100
Remarriage-----	299,010	16,520
Wife not in labor force-----	2,003,310	249,450
First marriage-----	1,609,310	227,410
Remarriage-----	394,000	22,040

¹Excludes cases for which marriage order not stated.

Table 15. Number of marriages, by major occupation group of husband at date of survey, marriage

Marriage order, region of residence at marriage, and color	Major occupation group of husband			
	All occupation groups	Professional, technical, and kindred workers	Farmers and farm laborers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm
<u>All husbands</u>	Number of marriages			
All marriages-----	3,614,530	484,710	236,290	225,240
First marriage-----	2,924,770	428,760	195,770	156,680
Northeast-----	769,240	137,780	10,900	58,690
North Central-----	798,030	128,380	53,750	31,230
South-----	917,800	77,780	93,970	42,870
West-----	439,700	84,820	37,150	23,890
Remarriage-----	689,760	55,950	40,520	68,560
Northeast-----	113,130	5,560	4,270	8,270
North Central-----	175,100	11,380	19,200	10,580
South-----	225,360	19,610	12,730	22,450
West-----	176,170	19,400	4,320	27,260
<u>White</u>				
All marriages-----	3,247,800	468,390	187,360	220,520
First marriage-----	2,641,160	412,440	149,580	154,890
Northeast-----	729,290	129,630	10,900	58,690
North Central-----	762,740	128,380	53,750	31,230
South-----	729,700	71,580	50,100	42,870
West-----	419,430	82,850	34,830	22,100
Remarriage-----	606,640	55,950	37,780	65,630
Northeast-----	102,360	5,560	4,270	8,270
North Central-----	159,280	11,380	19,200	8,880
South-----	179,980	19,610	9,990	22,450
West-----	165,020	19,400	4,320	26,030
<u>Nonwhite</u>				
All marriages-----	366,730	16,320	48,930	4,720
First marriage-----	283,610	16,320	46,190	1,790
South-----	188,100	6,200	43,870	-
All other regions-----	95,510	10,120	2,320	1,790
Remarriage-----	83,120	-	2,740	2,930
South-----	45,380	-	2,740	-
All other regions-----	37,740	-	-	2,930

order and region of residence of husband at marriage, and color: United States, January 1955-June 1958

Major occupation group of husband						
Clerical and kindred workers	Sales workers,	Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	Operatives and kindred workers	Service workers	Laborers, except farm and mine	Husband not in labor force
Number of marriages						
298,480	209,400	629,760	835,680	176,960	381,960	136,050
274,150	175,680	493,080	681,490	126,380	317,030	75,750
80,350	48,230	135,430	174,190	41,570	70,410	11,690
78,020	54,510	116,910	188,370	32,430	88,140	26,290
85,940	51,260	139,980	257,620	33,130	106,490	28,760
29,840	21,680	100,760	61,310	19,250	51,990	9,010
24,330	33,720	136,680	154,190	50,580	64,930	60,300
2,780	4,230	17,410	32,450	11,860	13,510	12,790
6,550	8,730	35,190	45,810	7,500	13,460	16,700
7,570	10,410	46,580	40,670	18,300	24,560	22,480
7,430	10,350	37,500	35,260	12,920	13,400	8,330
274,830	202,890	604,940	741,560	141,180	281,350	124,780
253,460	169,170	481,960	602,040	101,190	246,790	69,640
74,010	46,700	132,590	161,820	40,160	64,590	10,200
73,390	51,630	115,130	181,060	26,150	75,730	26,290
79,420	49,160	133,480	202,680	15,630	60,640	24,140
26,640	21,680	100,760	56,480	19,250	45,830	9,010
21,370	33,720	122,980	139,520	39,990	34,560	55,140
2,780	4,230	14,520	29,440	11,860	8,640	12,790
5,050	8,730	31,210	44,580	6,120	7,430	16,700
7,570	10,410	41,320	30,240	11,970	9,100	17,320
5,970	10,350	35,930	35,260	10,040	9,390	8,330
23,650	6,510	24,820	94,120	35,780	100,610	11,270
20,690	6,510	11,120	79,450	25,190	70,240	6,110
6,520	2,100	6,500	54,940	17,500	45,850	4,620
14,170	4,410	4,620	24,510	7,690	24,390	1,490
2,960	-	13,700	14,670	10,590	30,370	5,160
-	-	5,260	10,430	6,330	15,460	5,160
2,960	-	8,440	4,240	4,260	14,910	-

APPENDIX I

TECHNICAL NOTES ON METHODS

Age at Marriage

Age at marriage was computed from age at last birthday reported at the time of the Survey in June 1958, as follows:

- Married in 1958—Use age at time of Survey.
- Married in 1957—Subtract 1 from age at time of Survey.
- Married in 1956—Subtract 2 from age at time of Survey.
- Married in 1955—Subtract 3 from age at time of Survey.

For 1955, 1956, and 1957 the numbers subtracted are the durations from July 1 of the given year to July 1, 1958, of marriages performed in the given year. The assumption is made that both birthdays and dates of marriage are distributed equally between the first and second halves of each year and that the distribution of one is independent of the other.

Medians of Computed Ages at Marriage

Medians were computed by the usual methods for grouped data. Whenever the median fell in an open-end age interval its exact value was indeterminate from the tabulations made; hence, such medians are shown as located in the interval, e.g., 40 or more years. Medians were computed using more detailed age groups than those shown in the general tables.

Sample Design and Estimation Procedure

The sample design of the Current Population Survey instituted in May 1956 was spread over 330 areas comprising 638 counties and independent cities, with coverage in the District of Columbia and the 48 States as of 1958. Approximately 35,000 households were interviewed each month. On the average, another 1,500 occupied units were visited but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home

after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason. There were also about 5,500 sample units in an average month which were visited but were found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in this Survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1950 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. To these totals were added the population in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

Reliability of the Estimates

Since all figures except the independent estimates and complete census data are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. As calculated for this report, the standard error, which is a measure of sampling variability, also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not reflect any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference due to sampling would be less than twice the standard error, and about 99 out of 100 that it would be less than 2½ times the standard error.

The estimates of standard errors shown in the following tables are approximations for the 330-area sample. In order to derive standard errors which would be applicable to a wide variety of population characteristics and which could be prepared at moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors should be interpreted as providing an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than as providing a precise standard error for any specific item.

Table I contains the standard error of estimates of the numbers of households, families, or persons in a given class.

Table I. Standard error of estimated numbers

Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000-----	7,000
50,000-----	11,000
100,000-----	15,000
250,000-----	24,000
500,000-----	34,000
1,000,000-----	48,000
2,500,000-----	73,000
5,000,000-----	100,000
10,000,000-----	140,000
25,000,000-----	200,000
50,000,000-----	230,000

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sampling data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is 50 percent or greater. Table II shows the standard errors of estimated percentages for different sizes of the base of the percentage.

Illustration.—Table 10 shows that there were an estimated 105,000 first-married husbands aged 20-21 years at marriage who were craftsmen-foremen by occupation. Table I shows that the standard error of this estimate is approximately 15,000. Consequently, the chances are about 68 out of 100 that the figure obtained from a complete census would have differed by less than 15,000 from the sample estimate. The chances are 95 out of 100 that a census would have disclosed a figure differing from the estimate by less than 30,000, and about 99 in 100 that the difference would be less than 37,500.

These 105,000 husbands represented about 21 percent of the estimated 504,000 husbands who were craftsmen-foremen. Linear interpolation in table II shows that the standard error of the 21 percent is roughly 2.2 percentage points. Accordingly, the chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would reveal that the percentage lies between 18.8 and 23.2 percent.

Caution should be exercised in considering trends or comparisons of these data from one year to the next; comparisons over longer periods will generally provide more reliable evidence of change because the amount of the change will usually be larger and, if so, the relative error in the measurement of the change will be smaller. Estimates of annual change are sensitive to small errors in the estimates of the total number of units in a category. The joint effect of sampling variability and any biases in response or coverage on the total number of persons in a given category for each year may, therefore, be large in relation to the amount of annual change.

Table II. Standard error of estimated percentage

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage				
	500,000	1,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000	50,000,000
2 or 98-----	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
5 or 95-----	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.1
10 or 90-----	1.7	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.2
25 or 75-----	2.4	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.2
50-----	2.8	1.9	0.9	0.6	0.3

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APPENDIX II

DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

The following is a list of terms used in this report. Definitions are taken from the U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, Number 88.

Recently married couple.—A husband and wife married on or after January 1, 1955, both 14 years of age or older, and living together in the same household in June 1958 are considered a recently married couple. Husbands and wives reported as living together but with one spouse temporarily absent on vacation, on a visit, in a hospital, etc., were included, as were couples married under common law. Couples in which the husband was a member of the Armed Forces were included only if the husband was at the time of the survey living with his family either on or off a military post.

Year of marriage.—Year of marriage is defined as the year of the last (most recent) marriage of any person married more than once, or the year of the only marriage for those in their first marriages. All questions about the marriage were asked only for this marriage. Any remarried persons for whom the interviewer determined that the only previous marriage had been annulled were tallied as first married.

Place of residence at marriage.—Residence at marriage is defined in the Survey as the usual living place (county and State) one month prior to marriage. In the case of any person not having a usual place of residence the location of his living place immediately before marriage was recorded.

Household.—A household includes all related or unrelated persons who occupy a single house, apartment or other group of rooms, or a room that constitutes a dwelling unit.

Head of household.—One person in each household is designated as the head of household; this is usually the person regarded as the "head" by other members of the group. Married women were not classified as heads of households if their husbands were living with them at the time of the survey.

Family.—A family is defined as a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and living together.

Color.—The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Farm and nonfarm residence.—In accordance with the 1950 Census definition, households are classified as living on a farm if the respondent so reports. Exceptions are (a) households paying cash rent for *only* a house and yard on a farm, (b) persons living in institutions even though agricultural work is done there, and (c) residents of summer camps, motels, and tourist cabins. All of these are considered nonfarm. In addition, all households other than those listed as farm are classified as nonfarm.²

Employed.—Employed persons are defined as those who during the survey week were either (a) at work—did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business—or (b) were with a job but not at work.

Unemployed.—Unemployed persons are defined as those who did not work at all during the survey week and were looking for work. This includes persons waiting to be called back to a job after layoff, persons not in school and waiting to begin work at a new job within 30 days, and persons who would have been looking for work but were either temporarily ill or believed no work was available in their line or community.

Labor force.—The labor force includes the employed plus the unemployed as defined above.

Not in labor force.—This category consists of all civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed. It includes persons doing their own housework, unable to work because of long-term illness, retired, reported as too old to work, voluntarily idle, whose only work was seasonal and who were surveyed during an "off" season, or whose only work was incidental (less than 15 hours) unpaid work in a family farm or business.

Major occupation group.—Occupations were classified according to jobs held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. Persons unemployed during the survey week were classified according to their last civilian job.

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