

In both definitions, the most important component of the urban territory is the group of incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. A definition of urban territory restricted to such places, however, would exclude a number of equally large and densely settled places, merely because they were not incorporated places. Under the old definition, an effort was made to avoid some of the more obvious omissions by the inclusion of the places urban under special rules. Even with these rules, however, many large and closely built-up places were excluded from the urban territory. To improve the situation in the 1950 Census, the Bureau of the Census set up, in advance of enumeration, boundaries for urban-fringe areas around cities of 50,000 or more and for unincorporated places outside urban fringes. All the population residing in urban-fringe areas and in unincorporated places of 2,500 or more is classified as urban according to the new definition. (Of course, the incorporated places of 2,500 or more are urban in their own right.) Consequently, the special rules of the old definition are no longer necessary.

According to the new urban definition, the 1950 urban population of Maryland consisted of the following components: (1) The 1,215,258 inhabitants of the 31 incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more; (2) the 7,958 inhabitants of the 2 specially delineated unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more; and (3) the 392,686 persons living in other territory in the urban fringe of Baltimore and the Maryland part of the urban fringe of Washington, D. C.

Under the old definition, there were two places urban under special rule in Maryland. These places, district 12 and district 13 in Baltimore County, had a total population of 59,360. The urban population under the old definition, therefore, consisted of the population of the 31 incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and the 59,360 inhabitants of district 12 and district 13, a total of 1,274,618.

Under the new definition 56,469 inhabitants of the two places urban under special rule were included in the urban population because they were living in the urban fringe of Baltimore. The remaining 2,891 inhabitants of these places were classified as rural. The net gain in the urban population of the State resulting from the change in definition, therefore, was 341,284.

¹Except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are minor civil divisions of counties and are not necessarily densely settled centers like the towns in other States.