

## POPULATION—CENSUS OF 1950

## POPULATION OF MARYLAND: APRIL 1, 1950

The total population of Maryland on April 1, 1950, was 2,343,001, according to final figures for the State released by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. During the previous 10 years, the population of the State increased 521,757, or 28.6 percent, over the 1,821,244 inhabitants enumerated in 1940. Among the States, Maryland ranked twenty-fourth in population. The 1950 population was more than seven times as large as its population in 1790 when it was enumerated in the first Federal census.

According to the new urban definition, Maryland had 1,615,902 persons living in urban territory and 727,099 in rural territory. The urban population accounted for 69.0 percent of the total population of the State.

There are 23 counties and 1 independent city—Baltimore—in Maryland. Between 1940 and 1950, 20 of the counties and Baltimore City increased in population. The rates of change for the counties ranged from a decline of 3.3 percent for Garrett County to an increase of 117.0 percent for Prince George's County. The largest numerical increase was experienced in Baltimore County, which had a gain of 114,448. Nearly three-fourths of the increase in the population of the State was accounted for by Baltimore, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties and Baltimore City. The counties in Maryland ranged in size from Calvert with a population of 12,100 to Baltimore with a population of 270,273.

In 1950 there were 149 places incorporated as cities, towns, and villages in Maryland and 15 unincorporated places of 1,000 inhabitants or more. There were 1,310,869 persons living in the incorporated places, 95,611 of whom were in the 118 places of fewer than 2,500 inhabitants. Of the 28,762 inhabitants of the unincorporated places, 20,804 were in the 13 places of 1,000 to 2,500 inhabitants. The incorporated places ranged in size from Highland Beach town with a population of 5 to Baltimore City with a population of 949,708.

Under the urban definition established for use in the 1950 Census, urban territory has been defined to comprise (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, towns,<sup>1</sup> and villages; (b) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and (c) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. All other territory is classified as rural. According to the definition used in previous censuses, urban territory was designated as all incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.

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

<sup>1</sup>Except 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.