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Volume Title: An Appraisal of the 1950 Census Income Data

Volume Author/Editor: Conference on Research in Income and Wealth

Volume Publisher: Princeton University Press

Volume ISBN: 0-691-04102-4

Volume URL: http://www.nber.org/books/unkn58-2

Publication Date: 1958

Chapter Title: Front matter

Chapter Author: Conference on Research in Income and Wealth

Chapter URL: http://www.nber.org/chapters/c1046

Chapter pages in book: (p. -12 - 0)

An Appraisal of the 1950 Census Income Data

STUDIES IN INCOME AND WEALTH VOLUME TWENTY-THREE BY THE CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH



A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, NEW YORK

> PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, PRINCETON

> > 1958

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L.C. CARD 58-7130

Printed in the United States of America by Vail-Ballou Press, Inc., Binghamton, New York An Appraisal of the 1950 Census Income Data

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

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Since the present volume is a record of conference proceedings, it has been exempted from the rules governing submission of manuscripts to, and critical review by, the Board of Directors of the National Bureau. It has, however, been reviewed and accepted for publication by the Director of Research.

> (Resolution adopted July 6, 1948 and revised November 21, 1949)

Prefatory Note

This volume of Studies in Income and Wealth is devoted to the discussion of income data in the 1950 Decennial Census of Population. It is an outcome of the meetings of the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth held in March 1956 at Princeton, New Jersey.

We are indebted to George Garvy who served as chairman of the Program Committee and as editor of this volume; to Dorothy S. Brady, Selma F. Goldsmith, and Herman P. Miller who were members of the committee; and to the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs of Princeton University which made its facilities available to the Conference.

Most of the authors and commentators are or were connected with government agencies. Needless to say, all their contributions to this volume represent their own views, which may or may not correspond to those of the organizations with which they are now connected or with which they were associated at the time when the studies reported were undertaken.

Several of the comments compare in scope with the papers to which they relate, and most of them include material not elsewhere available, including results of original research. It was thought particularly appropriate to solicit comments from two especially well qualified experts north of the border, A. H. LeNeveu and Jenny Podoluk, who contribute valuable comparisons between the United States and the Canadian data.

Mildred E. Courtney, Secretary of the Conference, deserves credit for the efficient handling of the organizational chores connected with the Conference and the assembling of the material for this volume. Mary C. Wing's editorial skill contributed materially to its readability and cohesion. H. Irving Forman prepared the charts. Daniel Creamer, Richard A. Easterlin, and Daniel M. Holland made valuable editorial suggestions.

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