

PART THREE
CHAPTER ONE
EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS

A. HISTORICAL TRENDS

1. In The United States

As a young and rapidly growing nation, the United States throughout most of its history has had a young population.

In 1900:

- . More than half the United States population was under age 25.^{1/}
- . Eight out of every ten individuals were under age 45.
- . One out of 25 persons was aged 65 or older.

Between 1900 and 1950, the population of the United States almost doubled, with most of the gain occurring in the age group of 45 years and over.^{2/} The group aged 45 - 64 tripled in size, and the group aged 65 or more quadrupled. The 1960 Census revealed that:

- . About 1.1 million persons a year had reached their 65th birthday during the decade of the fifties.
- . More than 427,000 persons per year were added to the number aged 65 and over.
- . More than 170,000 of this number were aged 75 and over.

At the mid-point of the century, the nation's population was growing fastest at both the older and younger ends of the age scale. Between 1950 and 1960, the under 25 age group increased by about 26.9 percent, as a sequel to the sharp rise in the birth rate which began after World War II. The 65 and over group grew by about 34.7 percent. The 45-64 group increased about 17.4 percent, at a slightly lower rate than the population as a whole which grew by 18.5 percent during the ten-year interval. The group aged 25-44 grew in numbers by only 3.3 percent, reflecting the low birth rate of the depression and the war years.

Women accounted for 53 percent of the population increase during the decade, with the greatest proportion of growth in the older age brackets. By 1960, there were 103 women per 100 men in the total population, but in the 65-plus group they outnumbered men by 121 to 100. These gains reflected