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OLDER, YOUNGER, SWEETER

What the U. S. population is doing would strain the credulity of a chameleon. The census bureau says it is growing older, younger, and more feminine with every breath.

Figures since 1940 are given to back up the statement. In these intervening years, the personnel of Uncle Sam's farms and towns has bulged at both ends, the number of very young and of aged persons reaching new peaks. Meanwhile, woman's matrimonial chances backslid.

There were 1,007 males for every 1,000 women in 1940 but by 1948 only 991 males were available per 1,000 females.

The nation's total population is up 11 per cent from 1940, the year of the last official census.

The increase is accounted for principally by higher birth rate and longer life spans than formerly. Immigration was a smaller factor.

The number of children under five years increased by 43 per cent or almost four times as fast as the total population. There were 22 per cent more persons over 65 living in 1948 than in 1940, an increase double that of the whole populace. By last year the nation had 15 million children under five and 11 million adults 65 or more.

The number of persons 10 to 19 declined by more than 9 per cent. As a result, school attendance declined by about 1½ million.

In the population 20 to 64 years old, there were increases ranging from about 4 per cent for the group 20 to 24, to 23 per cent for group 55 to 64. (Condensed from Healthways)