

# Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly  
Report



U. S. Department of  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service

NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

November 20, 1953

Washington 25, D. C.

Vol. 2, No. 45

## Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States for Week Ended November 14, 1953

A total of 1,669 cases of measles was reported in the United States for the current week as compared with 1,856 for the corresponding week of 1952. More than half of the total cases were reported in the Middle Atlantic (284), East North Central (312), and Pacific Divisions (342).

While the total number of measles cases for the calendar year to date is about two-thirds of the total reported for the same period of 1952, the incidence of the disease since the seasonal low point (about September 1) is 15 percent higher than that for the corresponding period of last year. Since the first of September, a total of 11,925 cases has been reported as compared with 10,360 for the corresponding period of 1952. During the past 2½ months, increases in reported cases over a comparable period of 1952 have occurred in 7 of the 9 geographic divisions. The percentage increases in this period over those for last year ranged from 6.3 in the East South Central Division to 72.7 in the West South Central. The South Atlantic Division also reported a large increase (62.4). The 2 divisions showing decreases in incidence over last year's "disease year" were the East North Central and the West North Central with 18.2 and 60.0 percent, respectively.

The incidence of measles in Alaska, unlike that of the United States, was unusually high during the summer months and reached a peak rather than a low the last week in August. Since that time there has been a general decrease in the incidence for the Territory. For the current week, 27 cases were reported or a 36 percent decrease from last week's figure. Although this number is substantially greater than that for the corresponding week of last year, when no cases were reported, it represents a decrease of almost 90 percent from the peak figure of 240.

For the current week a total of 590 cases of poliomyelitis was reported, which brings the cumulative total for the year to 33,531. For the corresponding period of 1952, the total was 53,765. For the "disease year," which began about April 1, the cumulative total is 32,017 as compared with 52,572 for last year.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

#### Psittacosis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia Department of Health, has supplied information on 2 cases of psittacosis from different parts of the State. In one instance an employee of a pet shop developed symptoms suggestive of psittacosis. Complement fixation was positive in a titer of 1:1000. This case and the birds involved are still being investigated. The other case was in a man who had purchased a parakeet from a pet shop. One week later

the bird became sick and the patient took care of it. Two weeks after procuring the bird, the man developed chills and fever and pulmonary infiltration. The first complement fixation test was negative and the second was positive in a dilution of 1:16. Large doses of an antibiotic were administered. Psittacosis virus was recovered from the bird.

#### Influenza

The following report has been received by the Influenza Information Center, NIH, and the National Office of Vital Statistics.

The Division of Preventive Medicine, SGO, Air Force, and Dr. A. L. Gray, Mississippi State Board of Health, have reported that 5 cases with symptoms of primary atypical pneumonia occurred in the early part of November at an Air Force Base in Mississippi. Preliminary laboratory studies in the CDC Virus Laboratory, Montgomery, Alabama, show evidence of influenza B infection. There has been no general increase in the respiratory disease rate at this base.

#### Gastro-enteritis

Dr. U. P. Kokko, Kentucky Department of Health, reports 2 small outbreaks of gastro-enteritis involving 3 women and 2 men. The victims became ill with cramps, vomiting, and diarrhea about 4 hours after eating beef and ham sandwiches. The 2 parties had eaten sandwiches that had been obtained from a vending machine on different days. This machine, which had no facilities for refrigeration, was filled each day at 1:00 p. m. with beef, cheese, and ham sandwiches made in the diet kitchen. They were sold during the following 24 hours. The stale sandwiches supposedly were removed before fresh ones were supplied. Since the machine was empty when inspected no food was available for bacteriological examination.

Dr. S. B. Osgood, Oregon State Board of Health, reports that 2 persons became ill 4½ hours after eating ham sandwiches at a local eating place. No other illnesses have been reported from this source. Laboratory examination of the ham revealed the presence of hemolytic staphylococcus.

#### Communicable diseases in other areas

There have been 8 confirmed cases of jungle yellow fever in a camp near Cerro in the State of Bolivar, Venezuela. A fatal case in the Department of Santander, Colombia, has also been reported. A fatal case confirmed by laboratory examination has also occurred in the northeastern part of Nicaragua near the border of Honduras.

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Table 1. COMPARATIVE DATA FOR CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES

(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

DISEASE	TOTAL FOR WEEK ENDED		5-year median 1948-52	Approximate seasonal low week ended	CUMULATIVE TOTAL SINCE SEASONAL LOW WEEK		5-year median 1947-48 through 1951-52	CUMULATIVE TOTAL FOR CALENDAR YEAR		5-year median 1948-52
	Nov. 14, 1953	Nov. 15, 1952			1952-53	1951-52		1953	1952	
Anthrax-----062	1 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	30	32	45
Botulism-----049.1	-	1	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	12	19	---
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	22	39	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,590	1,890	---
Diphtheria-----055	71	104	144	July 1	984	1,202	2,121	2,016	2,583	5,130
Encephalitis, acute infectious---082	15	11	12	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,006	1,790	857
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	482	418	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	27,993	13,991	---
Malaria-----110-117	26	52	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	1,345	7,451	---
Measles-----085	1,669	1,856	1,856	Sept. 1	11,925	10,360	10,380	422,603	651,588	565,154
Meningococcal infections-----057	72	69	69	Sept. 1	3,733	686	600	4,498	4,195	3,281
Poliomyelitis, acute-----080	590	1,049	749	Apr. 1	32,017	52,572	28,605	33,531	53,765	29,798
Rabies in man-----094	-	1	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	12	16	---
Rocky Mountain spotted fever---104A	1	3	2	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	288	308	446
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051	1,754	2,140	1,189	Aug. 1	17,527	16,738	8,063	117,134	92,603	65,237
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	16	15	29
Trichinosis-----128	5	4	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	336	324	---
Tularemia-----059	6	3	6	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	467	555	783
Typhoid fever-----040	24	38	42	Apr. 1	1,784	1,831	1,882	4,2067	2,212	2,318
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	2	6	---	Apr. 1	5,177	131	---	215	158	---
Whooping cough-----056	752	680	1,151	Oct. 1	5,243	4,305	7,300	31,613	40,056	59,502
Rabies in animals-----	134	117	---	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	6,430	6,744	---

<sup>1</sup>Reported in Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>Not computed.<sup>3</sup>Addition: Idaho, week ended October 24, 1 case.<sup>4</sup>Deductions: New Mexico, weeks ended August 22 and September 26, 1 case each; Maine, week ended October 3, 1 case; Indiana, week ended November 7, 1 case.<sup>5</sup>Addition: North Carolina, week ended November 7, 1 case.

## SOURCE AND NATURE OF DATA

These provisional data are based on reports from State and territorial health departments to the Public Health Service. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding

Saturday. When the diseases which rarely occur (cholera, dengue, plague, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted under the table above.

Symbols.—1 dash [-]: no cases reported; asterisk [\*]: disease stated not notifiable; parentheses, [ ]: data not included in total; 3 dashes [---]: data not available.





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Table 3. CASES OF SPECIFIED DISEASES: SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED  
NOVEMBER 14, 1953

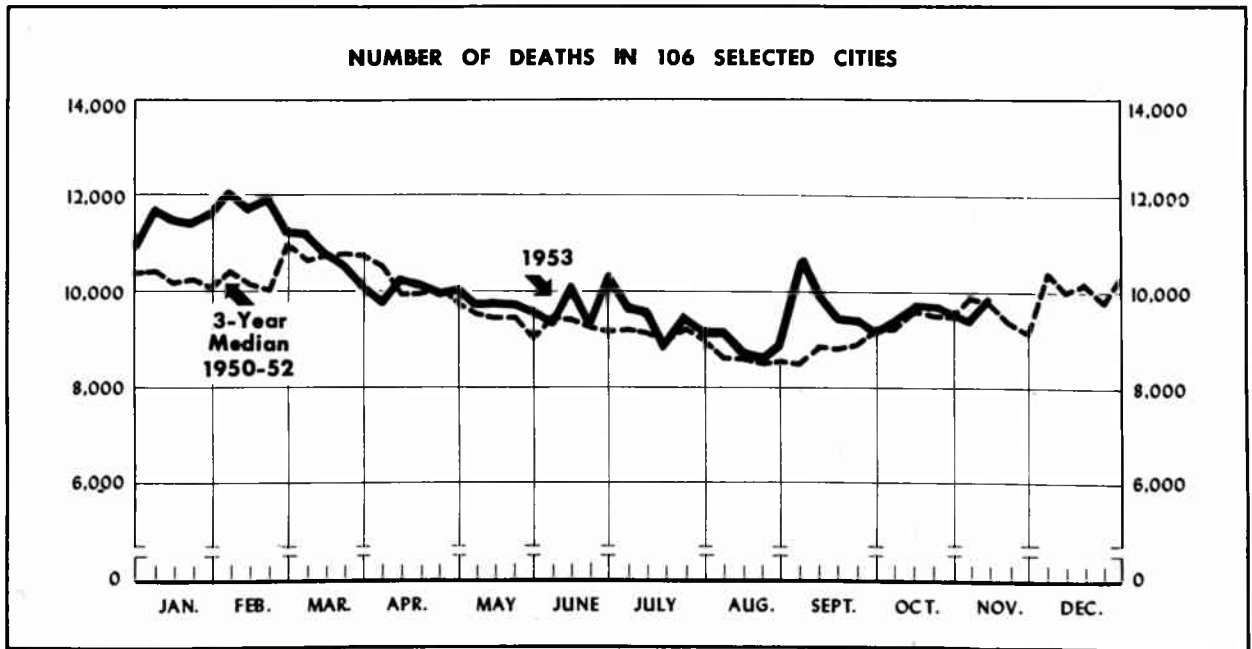
(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	Brucellosis (undulant fever) (044)	Diphtheria (055)	Encephalitis, acute infectious (082)	Hepatitis, infectious, and serum (092, N998.5 pt.)	Measles (085)	Meningococcal infections (057)	Poliovirus, acute (080)	Rocky Mountain spotted fever (104A)	Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat (050, 051)	Trichiniasis (128)	Typhoid fever (040)	Typhus fever, endemic (101)	Whooping cough (056)	Rabies in animals
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>														
Boston-----	-	1	-	6	2	2	4	-	8	-	1	-	4	-
Bridgeport-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridge-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Fall River-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hartford-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-
Lovell-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lynn-----	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
New Bedford-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
New Haven-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portland, Me.-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Providence-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Somerville-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Springfield, Mass.-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waterbury-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worcester-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
<b>MIDDLE ATLANTIC</b>														
Albany-----	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
Buffalo-----	-	-	-	1	15	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
Camden-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elizabeth-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erie-----	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Jersey City-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Newark, N. J.-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
New York City-----	-	2	6	14	53	6	16	-	12	3	-	-	45	-
Paterson-----	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia-----	1	-	-	4	7	1	1	-	23	-	-	-	14	-
Pittsburgh-----	-	-	-	1	42	1	11	-	2	-	-	-	3	-
Reading-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rochester, N. Y.-----	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schenectady-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Syracuse-----	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	1	7
Trenton-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Utica-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yonkers-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
<b>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</b>														
Akron-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canton-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicago-----	-	-	-	2	41	2	-	-	19	-	1	-	6	-
Cincinnati-----	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
Cleveland-----	-	1	-	-	6	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	36	-
Columbus-----	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
Dayton-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Detroit-----	-	-	-	1	13	-	8	-	13	-	-	-	45	-
Evansville-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Flint-----	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Fort Wayne-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Grand Rapids-----	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Indianapolis-----	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
Milwaukee-----	-	-	-	2	7	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	22	6
Peoria-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
South Bend-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Toledo-----	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Youngstown-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
<b>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</b>														
Des Moines-----	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Duluth-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Kansas City, Kans.-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kansas City, Mo.-----	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	2	-
Minneapolis-----	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	4	-
Omaha-----	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Louis-----	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	-	-	3	-
St. Paul-----	-	-	-	3	-	-	6	-	4	-	-	-	1	-
Wichita-----	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Anthrax; Philadelphia, 2 cases.



Provisional Statistics for Deaths in Selected Cities for  
Week Ended November 14, 1953



The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 106 major cities of the United States by week for the current year, and, for comparison, the median of the number of deaths reported for the corresponding weeks of the three previous calendar years. (The median is the central one of the three values arranged in order of magnitude.) If a report is not received from a city in time to be included in the total for the current week, an estimate is made to maintain comparability for graphic presentation.

The figures reported represent the number of death certificates received in the vital statistics offices during the week indicated, for deaths occurring in that city. Figures compiled in this way, by week of receipt, usually approximate closely the number of deaths occurring during the week. However, differences are to be expected because of variations in the interval

between death and receipt of the certificate.

While week-to-week changes in the total number of deaths reported for all major cities generally represent a change in mortality conditions, this may not be true for variations in weekly figures for each city. For example, in a city where 50 deaths are the weekly average, the number of deaths occurring in a week may be expected to vary by chance alone from 36 to 64 ( $d \pm 2\sqrt{d}$ , where  $d$  represents the average number of deaths per week).

The number of deaths in cities of the same size may also differ because of variations in the age, race, and sex composition of their populations, and because some cities are hospital centers serving the surrounding areas. Changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due in part to population increases or decreases.

Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	45th week ended Nov. 14, 1953	44th week ended Nov. 7, 1953	45th week median 1950-52	Percentage difference between current week and median	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 45 WEEKS		
					1953	1952	Percentage difference
TOTAL: 105 REPORTING CITIES-----	9,752	9,387	9,727	+0.3	450,358	438,757	+2.6
New England----- (14 cities)	705	631	640	+10.2	29,807	29,442	+1.2
Middle Atlantic----- (17 cities)	3,053	2,784	2,941	+3.8	134,348	131,679	+2.0
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,083	2,108	2,202	-5.4	99,625	96,507	+3.2
West North Central----- (8 cities)	692	664	668	+3.6	32,811	31,153	+5.3
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	744	734	719	+3.5	34,586	34,596	-0.0
East South Central----- (7 cities)	414	433	392	+5.6	19,911	18,897	+5.4
West South Central----- (13 cities)	718	696	691	+3.0	34,445	32,976	+4.5
Mountain----- (7 cities)	190	230	218	-12.8	10,569	10,067	+5.0
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,159	1,107	1,116	+3.9	54,256	53,440	+1.5

## Weekly Mortality Report

Table 5. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED  
NOVEMBER 14, 1953

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

CITY	45th week ended Nov. 14, 1953	44th week ended Nov. 7, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 45 WEEKS		CITY	45th week ended Nov. 14, 1953	44th week ended Nov. 7, 1953	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR FIRST 45 WEEKS	
			1953	1952				1953	1952
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston-----	249	213	10,070	9,920	St. Paul-----	60	63	2,839	2,704
Bridgeport-----	41	32	1,492	1,528	Wichita-----	31	37	1,795	1,765
Cambridge-----	27	31	1,239	1,320	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Fall River-----	34	20	1,258	1,187	Atlanta-----	84	102	4,608	4,513
Hartford-----	46	40	2,032	1,991	Baltimore-----	202	213	10,042	10,405
Lowell-----	30	22	1,137	1,085	Charlotte-----	39	28	1,292	1,259
Lynn-----	30	24	1,001	946	Miami-----	48	60	2,623	2,381
New Bedford-----	25	18	1,030	1,020	Norfolk-----	31	26	1,421	1,406
New Haven-----	49	51	1,950	1,919	Richmond-----	70	50	2,870	2,994
Providence-----	60	68	2,671	2,787	Tampa-----	60	47	2,346	2,385
Scoville-----	13	15	669	710	Washington, D. C.-----	173	174	7,906	7,814
Springfield, Mass.-----	45	42	1,749	1,659	Wilmington, Del.-----	37	34	1,478	1,439
Waterbury-----	13	18	1,155	1,077	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Worcester-----	43	37	2,354	2,293	Birmingham-----	72	51	3,228	3,116
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					Chattanooga-----	41	61	2,015	1,982
Albany-----	47	40	2,035	1,844	Knoxville-----	20	44	1,461	1,425
Buffalo-----	155	119	6,366	6,084	Louisville-----	95	92	4,721	4,426
Camden-----	40	21	1,624	1,601	Memphis-----	97	113	4,748	4,183
Elizabeth-----	46	25	1,225	1,289	Mobile-----	35	30	1,413	1,410
Erie-----	36	42	1,530	1,458	Montgomery-----	(21)	(33)	(1,201)	(1,195)
Jersey City-----	86	74	3,096	3,182	Nashville-----	54	42	2,325	2,355
Newark, N. J.-----	117	115	4,655	4,597	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
New York City-----	1,565	1,478	70,478	69,526	Austin-----	29	19	1,130	1,042
Paterson-----	34	33	1,726	1,682	Baton Rouge-----	26	17	723	725
Philadelphia-----	469	449	21,655	20,876	Corpus Christi-----	16	17	749	775
Pittsburgh-----	178	138	7,607	7,710	Dallas-----	80	89	4,235	3,924
Rochester, N. Y.-----	98	84	4,182	4,048	El Paso-----	30	23	1,258	1,176
Schenectady-----	13	27	1,053	1,002	Fort Worth-----	54	42	2,512	2,398
Syracuse-----	51	53	2,432	2,303	Houston-----	102	101	5,455	5,121
Trenton-----	52	41	2,073	1,955	Little Rock-----	30	49	1,891	1,982
Utica-----	35	28	1,412	1,251	New Orleans-----	146	140	7,020	6,717
Yonkers-----	31	17	1,199	1,271	Oklahoma City-----	59	39	2,390	2,302
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					San Antonio-----	68	72	3,601	3,418
Akron-----	47	50	2,527	2,458	Shreveport-----	42	32	1,761	1,688
Canton-----	24	31	1,262	1,255	Tulsa-----	30	56	1,720	1,708
Chicago-----	606	668	32,937	31,893	MOUNTAIN				
Cincinnati-----	141	150	6,694	6,257	Albuquerque-----	19	22	1,181	1,134
Cleveland-----	201	171	9,164	9,170	Colorado Springs-----	13	12	595	577
Columbus-----	114	116	4,636	4,419	Denver-----	81	106	4,791	4,516
Dayton-----	70	63	2,748	2,647	Ogden-----	19	10	549	565
Detroit-----	300	276	14,088	13,763	Phoenix-----	14	17	991	926
Evansville-----	31	18	1,444	1,521	Pueblo-----	9	16	617	558
Flint-----	36	34	1,609	1,506	Salt Lake City-----	35	47	1,845	1,791
Fort Wayne-----	48	22	1,399	1,321	Tucson-----	(11)	(6)	(229)	(210)
Grand Rapids-----	35	39	1,741	1,647	PACIFIC				
Indianapolis-----	107	152	5,007	4,928	Berkeley-----	18	17	750	831
Milwaukee-----	127	117	5,437	5,314	Long Beach-----	48	39	2,057	2,024
Peoria-----	23	20	1,378	1,333	Los Angeles-----	421	333	19,473	19,010
South Bend-----	23	28	1,043	1,029	Oakland-----	82	97	4,159	4,187
Toledo-----	82	105	4,111	3,927	Pasadena-----	30	28	1,519	1,407
Youngstown-----	68	50	2,400	2,119	Portland, Oreg.-----	81	102	4,372	4,202
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					Sacramento-----	45	51	2,065	2,035
Des Moines-----	47	51	2,201	2,189	San Diego-----	55	65	3,108	3,114
Duluth-----	16	18	1,196	1,142	San Francisco-----	184	165	8,347	8,396
Kansas City, Kans.-----	---	---	---	(1,551)	Seattle-----	138	113	5,098	4,890
Kansas City, Mo.-----	114	110	5,427	4,961	Spokane-----	33	65	1,869	1,844
Minneapolis-----	115	106	5,616	5,111	Tacoma-----	24	32	1,439	1,500
Omaha-----	59	47	2,860	2,810	Honolulu-----	(26)	(29)	(1,418)	(1,413)
St. Louis-----	250	232	10,877	10,471					

Symbols.—parentheses [ ( ) ]: data not included in table 4; 3 dashes [ --- ]: data not available.