

## Summary of the 1943 Census

### PART II

#### Chapter 1: Population

THE earliest record relates to the year 1774 when the total population was estimated at 176 persons. By the year 1802, when the census was taken by an officer specially deputed for that purpose by the Governor of Jamaica, the total had risen to 933 of whom 545 were slaves. The figures for 1891, 1911, 1921 and 1934 were 4,322, 5,564, 5,253 and 6,009 respectively.

A census of Jamaica and its Dependencies financed by His Majesty's Government and directed by Mr. A. J. Pelletier, F.S.S., Chief of Census, Canadian Bureau of Statistics, was taken in January, 1943. This, in addition to population embraced both housing and agriculture. The method employed on this occasion provided for the enumeration of the considerable number of men absent at sea and abroad.

The census of 1943 showed the population of the Dependency to be 6,670, which is the highest in its history, and which represents an increase of 11 per cent over the figure recorded in 1934. The detailed figures are as follows :

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Grand Cayman	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman	29	34	63
	<hr/> 2,955	<hr/> 3,715	<hr/> 6,670

Of a total population of 6,670, roughly classified according to racial origin, 1,052 are of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent.

The latest census revealed the number of males per 100 females to be 80, as against 70 in 1934 and 73 in 1921. On both the latter occasions, however, absent males were not enumerated.

The birth and death rates per 1,000 population and the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births during the years 1943-46 were as follows :

	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1943	25.2	10.5	36
1944	21.3	9.6	49
1945	17.59	14.0	14
1946	17.58	6.62	33

The migration balances during the period 1943-46 were :

	<i>Inward</i>	<i>Outward</i>	<i>Plus or Minus</i>
1943	327	395	—68
1944	769	852	—83
1945	735	698	+37
1946	872	754	+118

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisations

THERE is no Labour Organisation in the Dependency and no statistics other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 Census are available. However, as there has been little change since then, the following figures are indicative of the present position :

<i>Industry Group</i>	<i>Gainfully occupied Population</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i> .. .. .	264	24	288
<i>Fishing</i> .. .. .	63	—	63
<i>Manufacturing :</i>			
(Foreman, Bakers, Blacksmiths, Boot and Shoe repairers, Cabinet makers, Dressmakers, Tailors, Mechanics, Sawyers, etc.) .. .. .	51	390	441
<i>Construction</i> .. .. .	127	—	127
<i>Transportation and Communication :</i>			
(Seamen, Radio Operator, Captains, Mates, Engineers, Telephone Operators, Truck Drivers, etc.) .. .. .	678	—	678
<i>Trade :</i>			
(Owners, Managers, Agents, Brokers, Store Clerks, etc.) ..	71	54	125
<i>Service :</i>			
<i>(a) Professional</i>			
(Chemists, Physicians, Den- tists, Nurses, Teachers, Engineers, Clergymen, etc.)	17	40	57
<i>(b) Public</i>			
(Government Officers, Police- men, Postmistresses, and Postal Carriers, etc.) ..	11	1	12

(c) <i>Personal</i>					
(Barbers, Hairdressers, Bar-keepers, Cleaners, Cooks, Domestic Servants, Laundresses, etc.)	..	..	56	421	477
(d) <i>Clerical</i>	..	..	14	7	21
(e) <i>Labourers</i>	..	..	236	6	242
All occupations	..	..	1,588	943	2,531

#### *Rates of Pay*

As will be seen from the above a large number of the men of the Cayman Islands between the ages of 20 and 50 are serving as seamen in various capacities on vessels plying all over the world, receiving wages ranging from £14 to £28 per month. Labourers are paid at the rate of from 6/- to 8/- per day, stevedores at 1/- an hour, shipwrights from 16/- to 25/-, carpenters from 12/- to 20/- and painters from 10/- to 16/- per day. Female shop assistants are paid on an average of £4 per month and domestic servants from 25/- to 50/- per month with partial board.

In the Straw Rope industry women supply the greater part of the labour and their earnings average about 10/- a week.

In most industries and trades there is a 40-hour working week, the exception being Shop Assistants and Store Clerks, who are called on to work a 45-hour week.

#### *Cost of Living*

The staple diet of the inhabitants is flour or corn meal, supplemented by meat (fresh or salt), fish (fresh or salt) and locally-grown ground provisions. The controlled prices of the following commodities at the end of 1946 were :—Flour, 4d. to 5d. per lb., according to quality ; Corn Meal, 3d. to 5d. per lb. ; Sugar, 4d. per lb. ; Fresh Beef, 9d. per lb. ; Fresh Pork, 10½d. per lb. ; Salt Beef, 1/11d. per lb. ; Salt Pork, 1/4d. per lb. ; Fresh Fish, 6d. per lb. ; Salt Fish, 1/- to 1/6d. per lb. ; Beans, 1/- to 1/2d. per lb. ; Rice 7½d. to 1/- per lb. ; Kerosene 1/9d. per gallon ; Matches, 1d. per box ; Tobacco leaf, 4/6d. per lb. ; and Cigarettes, 7½d. per packet of 20.

A comparison of the 1939 prices of a number of items of food, clothing and hardware with those now obtained indicates that prices have risen over 200% but without a survey being carried out it is impossible to make any accurate statement as to the increase in the cost of living.

The cost of running a house for a European married couple, including messing, servants' wages, laundry, rent of furnished house (£5), lighting (15/-), and a moderate amount of entertaining would be in the vicinity of £50 per month. The Hotel rate is 15/- and Guest Houses 12/- a day.

**Source: Extract from the 1946 Colonial Report. The full report is available at Cayman Islands National Archive**