RELATIVE INCOME OF NEGRO MEN:
SOME RECENT DATA
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An article by Alan B. Batchelder entitled, "Decline in the Relative Income of Negro Men," containing data through 1962, appeared in the November 1964 issue of this Journal.¹ It is now possible to carry the relative income data forward for two additional years, 1963 and 1964.² Since the relative income of nonwhites has changed in these two years (particularly for males where we witnessed a reversal of trend), such an updating is of value.

Batchelder noted that the ratio of Negro to white income declined for males (while increasing for women) during the fifties and that "The nonwhite-to-white income ratio for men averaged .50 for 1958–60 and fell to .49 for 1962."³ This trend, however, has sharply reversed itself. In 1963 the ratio rose to .52 and in 1964 it rose further to .58. Improvement has replaced decline.

For females the ratio which "averaged .61 for 1958–60 and rose to .67 for 1962" stayed at .67 in 1963 and rose further to .71 in 1964.

These changes are substantial and help to answer Batchelder's query concerning possible trends in the sixties. They do not tell us to which of the three potential pressures discussed by Batchelder (buoyant demand, civil rights legislation, exhortation) to attribute the rise from .49 to .58. All pressures were present in the period 1962–64. The timing of the change does suggest that one should not underrate the impact of increasing demand. But since increase in relative incomes, while substantial, is not sufficient, a relaxation of the various pressures would be most unfortunate.