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INTERNAL MIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES: APRIL, 1947, TO APRIL, 1948

(Additional data on the migration of the civilian population 14 years old and over are contained in Current Population Reports, Series P-50, No. 10, "Employment Characteristics of Migrants in the United States: April, 1948")

One out of every 5 persons in April, 1948, was living in a different house from the one he lived in a year earlier, according to the results of a sample survey announced today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Of the 29 million persons who had moved to a different house, 19 million had moved within a county and 9 million had changed their county of residence. A comparison of the mobility of the various marital status groups reveals that divorced persons were more mobile than single, married, or widowed, with 29 percent not living in the same house in April, 1948, as in April, 1947.

All of the 1948 estimates in this report were based on supplementary questions included in the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. The smaller figures, as well as small differences between figures, should be used with particular care, as explained in the section on reliability of estimates.

POPULATION BORN ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 1947

Of the 142 million persons born on or before the beginning of the migration period, April 1, 1947 (i.e., persons one year old and over in April, 1948), 29 million, or 20 percent, were living in a different house from the one occupied a year before. (See table 1.) Of these, 19 million had moved within the same county, whereas 9 million had changed their county of residence and were, therefore, classified as "migrants." The migrants were divided almost equally between those who had moved with-

in a State and those who had moved between States. Of the interstate migrants, 40 percent had moved between contiguous States, a relatively "shorter" distance than the 60 percent who had migrated between noncontiguous States.

Comparison with previous periods.---As compared with migration between August, 1945, and August, 1946, the evidence suggests that there was no apparent change in the rate of migration in the year ending in April, 1948, as compared with that for civilians in the year of reconversion and readjustment immediately following V-J Day. Between April, 1947, and April, 1948, 6.7 percent of the population 14 years old and over had moved between counties (or from abroad), as compared with an identical figure for the year August, 1945, to August, 1946. The substantially large group of males still in the armed forces at the beginning of the earlier period have been excluded from the comparison since practically all of them migrated by virtue of their military status. This exclusion means that a large part of the most mobile age groups had to be omitted in computing the migration rate for the immediate postwar period. If only females 14 years old and over are compared between the two 12-month periods, we find that 7.6 percent were migrants in the earlier period and 6.3 percent in the more recent one. This small decline is statistically significant.

It may be noted that in all of the migration surveys made by the Bureau of the Census since 1940, including the present one, about half or more of the migrants moved between, rather than within, States. Thus, there is as yet no evidence of a complete return to the

distance pattern which prevailed in the 1935-40 period, in which a predominance of the migrants made shorter, i.e., intrastate, moves.¹

POPULATION BORN AFTER APRIL 1, 1947

Of the 3.4 million infants born after the beginning of the migration period, April 1, 1947 (i.e., infants less than one year old in April, 1948), about 1 million, or 28 percent, had "moved." It should be noted that the residence comparison involved here is between the mother's residence at the time of the child's birth, which is attributed to the child, and the residence of the child, itself, in April, 1948. Thus, in spite of an average period of only six months during which these infants could have "moved," as compared with one year for the population born on or before April 1, 1947, the proportion of "movers" was higher than for the older group, among whom only 20 percent moved.

From the migration classification of these children under one year old, a migration pattern may be inferred for their mothers (or families). These data suggest that higher proportions of these more recent parents moved, both within a county and between counties, than of the rest of the population. It seems highly probable that the greater mobility of this group may be partially explained by the younger average age of the parents involved (younger adults always being the more mobile), the fact that new families generally go through a process of settling down, and the need to seek larger quarters by reason of increase in family size.

The subsequent discussion in this report is restricted to the population born on or before

¹ A similar sample survey taken in October, 1946, dealing with migration during the 14-month period between V-J Day (August 14, 1945) and the survey date was reported in Population, Series P-20, No. 4, "Postwar Migration and Its Causes in the United States: August, 1945, to October, 1946." Although migration status was not defined in exactly the same way as in the present survey, comparisons are suggestive.

A survey of migration during the one-year period following V-J Day was reported in Population, Series P-S, No. 24, "Migration in the United States: August, 1945, to August, 1946." The population covered in this release, although including only persons 14 years old and over, may also be used for comparison if restricted to the group "Not in the armed forces in August, 1945," as has been done above.

Other surveys of internal migration have usually covered periods of several years' duration and are, therefore, less useful for purposes of comparison with the present survey. In this connection it may be noted that the present survey is intended to be the first of an annual series, each to be taken in April, which will cover migration during the preceding one-year period. In future reports it will be possible, therefore, to make more extensive comparisons with similar data for earlier periods.

the beginning of the migration period, that is, the population one year old and over, as it is this group which has experienced a uniform period of "exposure" to the chance of migration.

(It should be noted that, in most of the reports based on previous surveys and in the 1940 census reports, all children born after the beginning of the migration period were classified as nonmigrants and included with the other nonmigrants.²)

URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE

The migrant rate was higher for the population living in rural-nonfarm areas in April, 1948, than for the population living in urban or rural-farm areas. This order does not necessarily imply a net movement to rural-nonfarm areas from rural-farm and urban areas, since each of these types of areas contained migrants from other areas of the same type. (The previous residence of these migrants according to type of area is not known.)

Relative mobility as indicated by the proportion of the population living in the same house also shows the same rank order among the areas. Rural-nonfarm areas, with the highest migrant rate, also had the lowest proportion in the same house. The greater mobility of the rural-nonfarm population has also been indicated by data from previous surveys.

Among the migrants, those in urban areas were the relatively long-distance migrants, with more than half of them coming from other States, and with the highest proportion from noncontiguous States. By contrast, these same two indices show that migrants in rural-farm areas were relatively short-distance migrants. These facts are also consistent with findings from previous surveys.

AGE AND SEX

As also indicated by previous surveys, mobility varied markedly with age. (See table 2.) The median age was higher for nonmigrants than for migrants and was highest of all for the group remaining in the same house.

Several indices reveal that the aged population is relatively less mobile. The oldest age groups (45 to 64 years and 65 years and over) contained the highest proportions of total nonmigrants and of nonmigrants living in the same house, and, in general, the lowest proportions

² The present procedure, however, was also followed in Population, Series P-20, No. 14, "Internal Migration in the United States: April, 1940, to April, 1947."

of the various groups that moved ("different house" nonmigrants and the various migrant categories). The same indices again reveal the group 20 to 24 years old to be the most mobile in terms of change of residence over a one-year period.

A comparison of males and females of all ages indicated no significant differences in the proportion of migrants. For specific ages there was less evidence of differences than has been usually indicated by data from earlier surveys.

VETERAN STATUS

The proportion of migrants among veterans of World War II was twice as high as among non-veterans 18 years old and over, 10.3 percent as against 5.1 percent. (See table 3.) This difference is primarily a matter of age, however, the veterans being younger and, therefore, characterized by higher mobility. The fact that veterans were more mobile than nonveterans is also indicated by the smaller proportion in each age group living in the same house and the higher proportion moving within a county. It should be remembered, however, that the greater mobility of veterans than of nonveterans, even within an age group, may be due largely to relative concentration at the younger ages within each age group, particularly within the group 45 years old and over. It may be noted that the exceptionally high proportion of veterans 18 to 24 years old who were abroad in April, 1947, reflects the fact that this group has had the most recent military service.

MARITAL STATUS AND DURATION OF MARITAL STATUS

In the population 14 years old and over, mobility varied considerably with marital status. (See table 4.) Divorced persons were the most mobile, with the highest proportion of migrants and the lowest proportion remaining in the same house. Although, in general, mobility is greater among younger persons, the mobility of divorced persons--who include a relatively large proportion of middle-aged persons--was considerably greater than that of single persons--the group with the most young persons. However, the oldest group, namely, widowed persons, in conformity with the usual relationship between mobility and age, showed the least mobility as indicated by the proportion of migrants.

That a relationship between age and mobility exists has been previously demonstrated, and it is also evident here, although, as indicated above, age is not the only factor responsible for the variation in mobility. Thus, within each marital status group and as measured by the

proportions both of migrants and of those who remained in the same house, mobility tended to vary inversely with age. Additional evidence that it was not merely differences in age composition, however, which accounted for the differences in mobility of the various marital status groups may be cited. Within each age group (except that 14 to 24 years) divorced persons again had the highest mobility by the two indices and widowed persons were, in general, next mobile.

Within each age and marital status group, the greatest mobility was shown in practically every instance by the group of persons who had been in their present marital status less than one year. It is obvious, of course, that persons whose marital status had changed during the year would have relatively greater basis for a change of residence during the period than those whose status had not changed in the interval.

A survey taken in October, 1946,³ asking for the cause of migration, showed that 6.5 percent of all persons 14 years old and over moving between counties had done so because of a change in marital status. The present survey brings out the additional fact of a relatively large amount of mobility within a county in the year following marriage, divorce, or widowhood.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population.--The figures shown in this report relate primarily to the civilian population. Approximately 474,000 members of the armed forces living off post or with their families on post were included, but all other members of the armed forces were excluded. For simplicity, this population is called the "civilian population" in this report.

Urban and rural residence.--In this report, the urban and rural areas are those that were classified as urban or rural on the basis of the results of the 1940 census. All incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1940 were classified as urban, together with certain additional areas declared urban under special rules. All other areas were classified as rural.

Farm and nonfarm residence.--The classification of the rural population into farm and nonfarm in 1948 is based on residence at the time of the enumeration. Thus, the April, 1948, rural-farm population is the population living on farms (without regard to occupation) in April, 1948, in areas that were classified as rural in 1940.

³ Series P-20, No. 4, previously cited.

Migration status.--The civilian population of the United States is classified by migration status for a specified period on the basis of a comparison between the place of residence of each individual at the end of the period (the date of the survey or census) and the place of residence at the beginning of the period. This comparison restricts the classification by migration status to the population born on or before the beginning of the migration period. The classification by migration status of those born after the beginning of the migration period, presented in table 2, is based on the residence of the mother at the time the child was born. (The residence called for was the mother's usual residence at the time the child was born, and not the location of the hospital in which the child may have been born.) In most reports based on previous surveys and in the 1940 census reports, all children born after the beginning of the migration period were classified as nonmigrants and included with the other nonmigrants.

Three categories of migration status are distinguished:

1. Migrants. This group consists of persons living in the United States at the beginning of the specified period whose place of residence at the end of the period was not in the same county as the place of residence at the beginning.

2. Nonmigrants. This group consists of persons whose place of residence at the end of the specified period was in the same county as the place of residence at the beginning of the period. Thus, persons who moved from place to place within the same county and those who moved to a different county but returned before the end of the period are classified as nonmigrants. Among the nonmigrants, a distinction is made between those living in the same house at the end of the period as at the beginning, and those living in a different house.

3. Persons abroad at the beginning of the period. This group consists of persons, either citizens or aliens, whose place of residence was in continental United States at the end of the specified period but was outside at the beginning of the period, that is, in an outlying territory or possession of the United States or in a foreign country. These persons are distinguished from migrants who are persons who moved from one place to another within continental United States.

Type of migration.--Migrants are further classified by type of migration, on the basis of a comparison of the State of residence at the

end of the specified period with the State of residence at the beginning of the period. Two main categories of migrants are shown:

1. Migrants within a State. This group consists of migrants whose residence at the end of the specified period was in a different county but in the same State as the place of residence at the beginning of the migration period.

2. Migrants between States. This category consists of migrants whose State of residence at the end of the specified period was different from the State of residence at the beginning of the period. Among these migrants between States a distinction is made between those who moved between contiguous States and those who moved between noncontiguous States:

a. Migrants between contiguous States. These are migrants who crossed only one State line, that is, whose place of residence at the end of the specified period was in a State contiguous to their State of residence at the beginning of the period. States have been defined as contiguous if their boundaries touch at any point.

b. Migrants between noncontiguous States. These are migrants who moved across at least one intervening State, that is, across more than one State line. Their place of residence at the end of the period was in a State which was not contiguous to their State of residence at the beginning of the period.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Veteran status.--A veteran is defined as a male civilian who served as a member of the armed forces on active duty at any time between September 16, 1940, and July 25, 1947. Men on terminal leave who served as members of the armed forces between these two dates are also classified as veterans.

Marital status.--The marital status classification identifies four major categories: Single, married, divorced, and widowed. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration. Thus some persons now classified as married were previously divorced or widowed.

Duration of present marital status.--Persons who had ever been married were asked to report the number of years they had been in their present marital status. Specifically, married persons were asked how many years it had been since

their (last) marriage, divorced persons were asked how many years it had been since they and their (last) spouse were divorced, and widowed persons were asked how many years it had been since their (last) spouse died.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

The estimates presented in this report are based on data obtained in connection with the Census Bureau's monthly population survey, the sample consisting of about 25,000 households located in 68 areas in 42 States and the District of Columbia.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved, as a final step, the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian population of the United States by age, sex, and veteran status. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1940 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the armed forces and separation records.

Since the estimates, except the independent estimates mentioned above, are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. The following table presents the approximate sampling variability of estimates of selected sizes for over-all totals, i.e., those not classified by the items noted below. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference between the estimate and the figure which would have been obtained from a complete census is less than the sampling variability indicated below:

Size of estimate	Sampling variability	Size of estimate	Sampling variability
10,000.....	8,000	3,000,000.....	408,000
50,000.....	25,000	5,000,000.....	520,000
100,000.....	38,000	10,000,000.....	700,000
300,000.....	86,000	20,000,000.....	890,000
500,000.....	129,000	40,000,000.....	1,050,000
1,000,000.....	210,000		

Estimates of characteristics by urban and rural residence are subject to somewhat greater

sampling variability; and estimates of characteristics by age, sex, and veteran status are subject to slightly less sampling variability than that shown above.

The reliability of an estimated percentage depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which it is based. Small estimated percentages and estimated percentages having a small base are subject to relatively large sampling variability. For example, an estimated 79.8 percent of all persons born on or before April 1, 1947, were living in the same house in April, 1948, as one year earlier. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that a complete census would have yielded a figure between 79.3 and 80.3 percent. An estimated 11.1 percent of divorced persons 25-34 years of age were migrants, and chances are about 19 out of 20 that a complete census would have yielded a figure between 5.9 and 16.3 percent.

The estimates of sampling variability shown above are not directly applicable to differences obtained by subtracting one figure from another. The sampling variability in an observed difference between two estimates depends on the sampling variability of each of the estimates and the correlation between them.

In addition to sampling variation, the estimates are subject to biases due to errors of response and to nonreporting, but the possible effect of such biases is not included in the above measures of reliability. There is evidence that in the survey veterans were underrepresented in the sample relative to nonveterans and that some veterans were incorrectly reported as nonveterans. Veterans are concentrated in the age groups in which the population is more mobile than the population of older ages. Veterans are, therefore, subject to greater underenumeration than older persons whose place of residence is more firmly established. In addition, veterans whose length of service was short may in some cases be erroneously classified as nonveterans by the respondent. Therefore, although the total number of veterans is controlled by independent figures, the distribution of veterans by migration status may be somewhat affected.

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