

# CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

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INTERNAL MIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES: APRIL, 1948, TO APRIL, 1949

(Additional data on the migration of the civilian population 14 years old and over are contained in Current Population Reports, Series P-50, No. 20, "Employment Characteristics of Migrants in the United States; April, 1949")

Twenty-eight million persons, or about 1 out of every 5, in April, 1949, were living in a different house from the one they had lived in a year earlier, according to the results of a sample survey announced today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Of the 28 million, 19 million had moved within a county, 4 million had changed county of residence within a State, another 4 million had moved from one State to another, and half a million had been living abroad a year earlier. There is some evidence of a slight decline in migration between April, 1948, and April, 1949, as compared either with that between April, 1947, and April, 1948, or between August, 1945, and August, 1946 (the year following V-J Day).

The evidence suggests that nonwhite migration is somewhat less and over shorter distances than white migration, thus resembling its prewar pattern rather than the nonwhite pattern during the war and immediate postwar years. There is also some evidence of net addition to the farm population by migration in the year ending April, 1949.

An investigation (for the first time by the Census Bureau) into the mobility of mothers as related to the number and age of their children living with them indicates that, even within an age group, mothers with older children were relatively less mobile than those with no older children.

All of the 1949 statistics in this report are estimates 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, 1948<sup>1</sup>

Of the 144 million persons born on or before the beginning of the migration period, April 1, 1948 (i.e., persons one year old and over in April, 1949), 28 million, or 19 percent, were living in a different house from the one occupied a year before. (See table 2.) Of these, 19 million had moved within the same county, whereas 8 million had changed their county of residence and were, therefore, classified as "migrants," and about 500 thousand had been abroad on April 1, 1948. The migrants were divided almost equally between those who had moved within a State and those who had moved between States. Of the interstate migrants, 41 percent had moved between contiguous States, a relatively "shorter" distance than the 59 percent who had migrated between noncontiguous States.

Comparisons with previous periods.—Evidence from previous surveys<sup>2</sup> indicated that the rate of migration between April, 1947, and April,

<sup>1</sup>In this report all children born after the beginning of the migration period have been entirely excluded. The population for which statistics are shown, therefore, is that born on or before the beginning of the migration period, that is, the population one year old and over on April 1, 1949. In the two immediately preceding migration reports (Series P-20, Nos. 22 and 14), children born after the beginning of the migration period were considered separately, based on information on the mother's residence at the time of the child's birth. In the reports based on earlier surveys and in the 1940 migration reports, all such children were classified as nonmigrants and included with the other nonmigrants.

<sup>2</sup>See Series P-20, No. 22. That report was the first of a planned annual series, each based on an April survey, covering migration during the preceding one-year period. The relationship of such annual surveys to earlier census and survey data on migration is discussed in Series P-20, No. 22.

1948, was about the same as that for civilians in the year of reconversion and readjustment immediately following V-J Day (August, 1945, to August, 1946). As compared with migration for those two periods, migration between April, 1948, and April, 1949, showed a slight decline—6.0 percent of the population 14 years old and over having moved between counties (or from abroad) as compared with 6.7 percent for each of the earlier periods.

When the comparison is restricted only to females 14 years old and over (in order to eliminate the effect of males still in the service in 1945-6<sup>3</sup>), the evidence points to a continuous decline in the rate of migration since the first postwar year, with 7.6 percent having been migrants in the August, 1945-6, period, 6.3 percent in the April, 1947-8, period, and 5.5 percent in the April, 1948-9, period.

It may be noted that in all of the migration surveys made by the Bureau of the Census since 1940,<sup>4</sup> including the present one, about half or more of the migrants moved between, rather than within, States. Thus, for the total population, there is as yet no evidence of a complete return to the distance pattern which prevailed in the 1935-40 period, in which a majority of the migrants made shorter, i.e., intrastate, moves. (See the section "Color," in which it is indicated that the nonwhite population has returned to its prewar migration pattern.)

URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE

The migrant rate was higher for rural-nonfarm and rural-farm areas in April, 1949, than for the population living in urban areas. This order does not necessarily imply a movement to rural-nonfarm and rural-farm areas from urban areas, since each of these types of areas contained migrants from other rural areas. (Data on the previous residence of these migrants according to type of area were not collected.)

The population in rural-nonfarm areas contained the highest proportion of persons who made the shortest move, that is, within a county. Some of these moves undoubtedly reflect the shifting of persons from a city residence to the suburbs.

Among persons who moved between counties, those in urban areas were most often relatively long-distance migrants, with more than half of them coming from other States. By contrast, the same index shows that migrants in rural-farm areas were most often 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 3.) 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 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 persons who moved. However, females exceeded males in the proportion of movers for the age group 18 and 19 years. This difference was due mainly to the fact that the proportion of females who moved within a county was twice as high as that for males, 21.9 percent against 11.6 percent. These facts are in line with previous findings which indicate that females tend to leave home at earlier ages than males, partly because of earlier marriage.

COLOR

A comparison of the migrant rates of the white and nonwhite populations suggests that in the year April, 1948, to April, 1949, the nonwhites were slightly less mobile. (See table 4.) This lesser mobility among nonwhites is also indicated by the fact that 40 percent of the nonwhite migrants moved between States (i.e., the "longer" distance) whereas 53 percent of the white migrants made such moves.

These indications of a lower migrant rate as well as a preponderance of "shorter" distance moves for nonwhites as compared with whites seem to indicate a return to the nonwhite migration patterns of the 1935-40 period, and a departure from the pattern of the 1940-7 period.<sup>5</sup> Judgment as to whether the relatively great mobility of the nonwhite population during the war and immediate postwar years was a temporary phenomenon must await the results of subsequent surveys.

A comparison of white and nonwhite migration patterns for the three periods mentioned may be seen by referring to the following table.

Table 1.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY MIGRATION STATUS AND TYPE OF MIGRATION OF THE POPULATION BORN ON OR BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE MIGRATION PERIOD, BY COLOR: CIVILIAN POPULATION, APRIL, 1949 AND 1947, AND TOTAL POPULATION, APRIL, 1940

| Migration status and type of migration | April, 1948, to April, 1949 |           | April, 1940, to April, 1947 |           | April, 1935, to April, 1940 |           |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
|  | White                       | Non-white | White                       | Non-white | White                       | Non-white |
| Total.....                             | 100.0                       | 100.0     | 100.0                       | 100.0     | 100.0                       | 100.0     |
| Nonmigrants.....                       | 93.8                        | 95.1      | 78.9                        | 77.4      | 86.2                        | 90.4      |
| Migrants.....                          | 5.9                         | 4.7       | 20.7                        | 21.8      | 13.5                        | 9.5       |
| Within a State.....                    | 2.8                         | 2.8       | 11.0                        | 7.7       | 7.9                         | 5.6       |
| Between States.....                    | 3.1                         | 1.9       | 9.7                         | 14.1      | 5.6                         | 3.9       |
| Abroad.....                            | 0.4                         | 0.1       | 0.4                         | 0.8       | 0.3                         | 0.1       |

<sup>3</sup>A more detailed explanation of this factor is contained in Series P-20, No. 22, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>See the section "Related reports."

<sup>5</sup>See Series P-20, No. 22, p. 2, for a discussion of the 1940-7 and 1935-40 patterns.

### FARM-NONFARM SHIFTS

A comparison of movement to and from farms indicates that there was some net movement to farms between April, 1948, and April, 1949. (See table 5.) The excess of persons moving to farms held for both males and females in most age groups. Of the net gain in farm population of 504,000, about half (244,000) were in the age range, 18 to 44 years, and may be considered predominantly "producers." Of the remainder, 237,000 were aged 1 to 17 years, and largely "nonproducers." Only 5 percent of the net were 45 years old and over.

Consistent with previous findings,<sup>6</sup> migrants from one farm to another showed the highest proportion of intrastate (shorter distance) movers, whereas migrants from one nonfarm area to another had the highest proportion of migrants moving between noncontiguous States (the longest distance). The migrants changing from a farm to a nonfarm residence or vice versa were more evenly distributed.

### MARITAL STATUS AND NUMBER OF OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Among females 14 years old and over, those in the category "ever married" (i.e., married, widowed, or divorced) were somewhat more mobile than those "single" (i.e., never married). This difference is largely due to the higher proportion moving within the same county. (See table 6.) Although ordinarily mobility is greater among younger persons, the mobility of single females—65 percent of whom were in the age group 14 to 24 years—was less than that among those ever married—among whom only 11 percent were in the youngest age group and 44 percent were 45 years old and over.

As indicated above, age is apparently not the only factor associated with mobility. This is further demonstrated by the fact that among single females, mobility (as indicated by either the proportion remaining in the same house, moving within a county, or between counties) did not vary significantly with age. Among females ever married, there was more conformity with the usual age-mobility pattern, with the group 14 to 24 years old showing the greatest mobility (by all three indices) and the group 25 to 44 years ranking next.<sup>7</sup>

Within each age group of ever married females, mobility varied sharply according to the number of own children under 18, and the age interval of these children. On an a priori basis, it might have been expected that the greatest mobility would be shown by females with no

children. The data indicate that although this group without children shows relatively high mobility, the group 25 to 44 years old with children all of whom were in the youngest age interval also showed relatively high mobility. This may reflect the fact that these females who became mothers during a relatively recent period may have moved in order to provide the larger quarters needed by reason of increase in family size.

Among mothers 25 to 44 years old with children in only one of the age groups (rather than in none, or in more than one group), mobility generally was lower for those with older children. This may reflect the fact that mothers of such children are probably relatively concentrated at the older ages within an age group, and thus are usually less mobile.

Among mothers aged 25 to 44 years with children in any two of the age groups, the above general pattern also held. Thus the proportion of migrants was greater for those with no children in the oldest group (5.6 percent), and relatively less for those having children in the oldest group (3.6 and 3.4 percent).

The proportion of migrants among mothers 25 to 44 years old with children in all three of the age intervals was not significantly different from that among mothers of the same age with children in only two of the age intervals. Thus, the a priori hypothesis that persons with the "most" children (in this report, children in all three age groups) would probably be least mobile, was not verified by the present data.

### RELATED REPORTS

Migration statistics for other periods have been published in the following Census Bureau reports: "Internal Migration in the United States: April, 1947, to April, 1948," Series P-20, No. 22; "Internal Migration in the United States: April, 1940, to April, 1947," Series P-20, No. 14; "Postwar Migration and Its Causes in the United States: August, 1945, to October, 1946," Series P-20, No. 4; "Migration in the United States: August, 1945, to August, 1946," Series P-S, No. 24; "Internal Migration in the United States: April, 1940, to February, 1946," Series P-S, No. 11; and "Civilian Migration in the United States: December, 1941, to March, 1945," Series P-S, No. 5.

Other reports containing migration data include "Employment Characteristics of Migrants in the United States: April, 1948," Series P-50, No. 10; "Income of Families and Persons in the United States: 1947," Series P-60, No. 5; "Characteristics of Families and Subfamilies in the United States in April, 1947," Series P-20, No. 17; "Migration of Families in the United States: April, 1940, to February, 1946," Series P-S, No. 14; "Employment of Wartime Migrants: March, 1945," Series P-S, No. 8; and "Shifts in Farm Population: December, 1941, to March, 1945," Series P-S, No. 6.

<sup>6</sup>See Series P-20, No. 14, p. 5.

<sup>7</sup>These facts are consistent with previous findings for males and females combined, 14 years old and over. See Series P-20, No. 22, table 4.

Estimates of net migration for States, derived from estimates of net population change, births, and deaths, rather than from a question on migration, have been published in reports "Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Regions, Divisions, and States: July 1, 1948," Series P-25, No. 26; and "Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Regions, Divisions, and States: July 1, 1940 to 1947," Series P-25, No. 12.

Also see the four 1940 Census of Population reports in the series Population, Internal Migration, 1935 to 1940, separately entitled Color and Sex of Migrants, Age of Migrants, Economic Characteristics of Migrants, and Social Characteristics of Migrants.

#### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population.—The figures for 1949 (the migration period 1948 to 1949) shown in this report, relate primarily to the civilian population. Approximately 393,000 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. (The figures shown in table 1 for April 1, 1947, similarly relate primarily to the civilian population as of that date, whereas those for 1940 in the same table relate to the total population including all members of the armed forces in continental United States on April 1, 1940.)

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 1949 (table 2) is based on residence at the time of the enumeration. Thus, the April, 1949, rural-farm population is the population living on farms (without regard to occupation) in April, 1949, in areas that were classified as rural in 1940.

The classification of the total population (i.e., urban and rural combined) into farm and nonfarm in 1949 (table 5) is also based on residence at the time of enumeration without regard to occupation. (The total farm population exceeds the rural-farm population by the relatively small number of persons living on urban farms.) The classification of the 1949 total farm population into farm and nonfarm in 1948 is

based on the statements made by persons enumerated in 1949 as to their 1948 residence.

All of the institutional population in 1949 is classified as nonfarm; in previous reports part of it was classified as on farms. Also in the current report, all persons living in the same house as a year earlier are assumed not to have changed their farm status.

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. Persons born after the beginning of the migration period, that is, children under 1 year old, are omitted from this report. 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.

Color.—Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race are classified as white. The group designated "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and other nonwhite races.

Marital status.—The marital status classification of females in this report distinguishes two basic groups: "single" (comprising all who have never been married), and "ever married" (comprising all married, widowed, or divorced females). These terms refer to the marital status at the time of the enumeration.

Own children.—"Own" children comprise not only sons and daughters, but also stepchildren and adopted children.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

The estimates for 1949 presented in this report are based on data obtained in connection with the Census Bureau's monthly population sample 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 |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 50,000.....      | 46,000               | 3,000,000....    | 350,000              |
| 100,000.....     | 65,000               | 5,000,000....    | 450,000              |
| 300,000.....     | 110,000              | 10,000,000....   | 620,000              |
| 500,000.....     | 140,000              | 20,000,000....   | 850,000              |
| 1,000,000.....   | 200,000              | 40,000,000....   | 1,100,000            |

Estimates of characteristics by urban, rural, farm, and nonfarm residence are subject to somewhat greater sampling variability, and estimates of characteristics by age and sex 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. The following table presents the approximate sampling variability of estimated percentages based on totals of selected sizes.

| If the estimated percentage is: | And if the size of the base is:   |            |            |           |           |           |           |         |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|                                 | 50,000,000  | 20,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 500,000 |
|                                 | Then the chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference between the estimated percentage and the percentage which would have been obtained from a complete census is less than: |            |            |           |           |           |           |         |
| 2 or 98                         | 0.4   | 0.6        | 0.9        | 1.3       | 1.7       | 2.0       | 2.9       | 4.1     |
| 5 or 95                         | 0.6   | 1.0        | 1.4        | 2.0       | 2.6       | 3.2       | 4.5       | 6.3     |
| 10 or 90                        | 0.9   | 1.4        | 1.9        | 2.7       | 3.5       | 4.3       | 6.1       | 8.7     |
| 25 or 75                        | 1.3   | 2.0        | 2.8        | 4.0       | 5.1       | 6.3       | 8.9       | 12.5    |
| 50                              | 1.4   | 2.3        | 3.2        | 4.8       | 5.9       | 7.2       | 10.2      | 14.5    |

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.

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