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POSTWAR MIGRATION AND ITS CAUSES IN THE UNITED STATES:  
AUGUST, 1945, TO OCTOBER, 1946

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Of the estimated 10,700,000 migrants between V-J Day (August 14, 1945) and October, 1946, close to 6,000,000 moved for reasons connected with their job or with the job of the head of their family. An additional 1,900,000 persons moved for reasons directly or indirectly related to the housing situation, according to estimates issued today by J. C. Capt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Approximately one percent of all migrants gave more than one reason for moving. Only about one-tenth of the migrants moved more than once in the 14 months following V-J Day. Almost as many migrants moved between States in their last civilian move (usually a longer distance) as within States.

These estimates are based on data from a survey made in October, 1946, covering a representative national sample of the civilian non-institutional population. Persons in the sample were asked how many times they had changed their county of residence as civilians during the period from V-J Day to October, 1946; and migrants were also asked their last county of residence as civilians and the reason for their last civilian move.

In this survey, a migrant was defined as any person who had changed his county of residence as a civilian at any time during the period from V-J Day to October, 1946, whereas in previous surveys<sup>1</sup> only those persons whose

county of residence at the beginning of the period differed from that at the end of the period were considered migrants.<sup>2</sup> Persons who moved at some time during the period but returned to the county in which they were living at the beginning of the period are thus counted as migrants in the present survey and as nonmigrants in earlier surveys. The number of migrants in this release, therefore, is a more nearly complete measure of the amount of intercounty movement which occurred during the period covered.

The 10,700,000 migrants during the period August, 1945, to October, 1946, made approximately 12,200,000 actual intercounty moves. About 10 percent of all these migrants made more than one move, and only three percent moved three or more times. There was practically no difference in the proportion of male veterans, male nonveterans, and females who made multiple moves. Data on the number of moves since V-J Day for the migrant civilian population, by veteran status and sex, are presented in table I.

Veteran status, age, and sex.--The rate of migration was highest among males who were veterans of World War II. Approximately 11.7 percent of the male veterans (1,500,000) in October, 1946, had moved one or more times as civilians since the war ended. Of course, the veteran population is highly concentrated in the younger age groups which are characterized by higher mobility. In addition, there was a tendency for the recently discharged veteran to move about in the process of readjustment to civilian life.

<sup>2</sup> In the earlier surveys, as well as in the 1940 reports, all children born on or after the beginning of the specified period were classified as nonmigrants.

<sup>1</sup> See 1940 Census of Population reports, Internal Migration, 1935 to 1940; and the three releases, Population, Series P-S, No. 5, "Civilian Migration in the United States: December, 1941, to March, 1945"; Series P-S, No. 11, "Internal Migration in the United States: April, 1940, to February, 1946"; and Series P-S, No. 24, "Migration in the United States: August, 1945, to August, 1946."

Table I.--NUMBER OF MOVES OF THE MIGRANT CIVILIAN POPULATION, BY VETERAN STATUS AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: AUGUST, 1945, TO OCTOBER, 1946

VETERAN STATUS AND SEX	Total migrants	NUMBER OF CIVILIAN MOVES SINCE V-J DAY				
		1 move	2 moves	3 moves	4 moves	5 or more moves
Total.....	10,717,000	9,610,000	833,000	202,000	45,000	28,000
Male.....	5,022,000	4,516,000	384,000	95,000	19,000	8,000
Nonveteran.....	3,521,000	3,180,000	270,000	50,000	15,000	6,000
Veteran.....	1,501,000	1,336,000	114,000	44,000	4,000	2,000
Female.....	5,695,000	5,094,000	449,000	107,000	26,000	20,000
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
Total.....	100.0	89.7	7.8	1.9	0.4	0.3
Male.....	100.0	89.9	7.6	1.9	0.4	0.2
Nonveteran.....	100.0	90.3	7.7	1.4	0.4	0.2
Veteran.....	100.0	89.0	7.6	2.9	0.3	0.1
Female.....	100.0	89.4	7.9	1.9	0.5	0.4

Despite the fact that the highly mobile veteran group represented about one-fifth of the total male population, the migration rates for all males and for females were about the same. In October, 1946, according to the sample, there were 5,695,000 female migrants (8.1 percent of all females) and 5,022,000 male migrants (7.4 percent of all males).

Among all persons 20 years old and over, as well as among male nonveterans and females, the proportion of migrants generally decreased with an increase in age. (Among veterans, however, mobility varied little with age, being about 10 percent in each age group 20 and over.) As previous surveys also indicated, the proportions of migrants were highest among persons 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 years old. About one-seventh of the population in each of these age groups migrated as civilians. The proportion of migrants in the age groups over 29 years of age dropped off rapidly with an increase in age.

The percent of the civilian population in October, 1946, who were migrants since V-J Day, by veteran status, age, and sex, is presented in the following table:

Table II.--PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION WHO WERE MIGRANTS, BY VETERAN STATUS, AGE, AND SEX: AUGUST, 1945, TO OCTOBER, 1946

AGE	Total	MALE			Fe- male
		Total	Vet- eran	Non- veteran	
Total, all ages..	7.7	7.4	11.7	6.4	8.1
Under 7 years.....	10.8	10.5	-	10.5	11.0
7 to 13 years.....	7.4	7.2	-	7.2	7.6
14 to 17 years.....	5.2	4.5	-	4.5	5.8
18 and 19 years.....	9.2	5.4	3.4	6.4	11.7
20 to 24 years.....	13.7	11.1	10.8	12.2	16.0
25 to 29 years.....	13.3	12.4	13.2	10.3	14.2
30 to 44 years.....	7.6	8.4	12.2	6.9	7.0
45 to 64 years.....	3.8	4.0	13.1	3.9	3.6
65 years and over....	3.4	2.7	-	2.7	4.0

For the general population, as well as among females and nonveterans, nonmigrants were older on the average than migrants. However, since the veterans are concentrated in a relatively small age range, the median ages of nonmigrant and migrant veterans are almost equal. The median age of nonmigrants of all ages was about 31 years, as compared with 25 years for migrants. In addition, about 29 percent of the nonmigrants were 45 years old and over as compared with 13 percent of the migrants. (See table 1.)

Type of migration.--In general, the number of migrants who moved within a State was only slightly higher than the number who moved between States. Intrastate migrants exceeded interstate migrants in the prewar period, also. During the war and in the early postwar period, however, previous surveys indicate that the reverse was true. In the wartime period, many workers migrated long distances to war production centers. This type of movement is being replaced by the more normal search for employment in one's more immediate locality.

There were about 170,000 persons who came from outside continental United States as civilians between August, 1945, and October, 1946, and who made no subsequent intercounty moves during the period. Of these persons, about 60 percent were women. This immigrant group consisted, in part, of foreign brides and children of servicemen who had married while serving abroad during the war.

Table 1 presents statistics on migration status and last civilian move of the migrant population by veteran status, age, and sex.

Reasons for move.--Of major interest to persons concerned with population redistribution is the motivating force which causes people to move from one place to another. On the basis of tabulations from the October, 1946, survey, it was determined that approximately one-half of

all persons who moved did so because the head of their family moved. Approximately 60 percent of all female migrants 14 years old and over and 90 percent of all migrants under 14 years of age moved for this reason. It is probable that many persons in these categories were part of the normal family unit and moved along with the husband or father who was forced to change his residence for one of a number of reasons. In addition, about 8 percent of the female migrants 14 years old and over and an almost equal proportion of all migrants under 14 years of age moved to join the head of the family who was most probably either in the armed forces or newly discharged from the service and had settled in another locality. Further evidence that many families with children moved during this postwar period was the fact that more than one-quarter of all migrants were under 14 years of age.

Since about half of all persons who moved did so because the head of their family moved, the reason for the move of the head of the family may be assigned to each such person who moved with him. Thus, it is possible to obtain a distribution of the maximum number of persons affected by a move for any specific reason. On the other hand, if the reason for the move of the head is not assigned to the members of his family who moved with him, it is possible to obtain a distribution of the number of persons directly affected by the existence of any specific reason. (For example, 683,000 persons moved because they were directly affected by housing problems. An additional 1,172,000 persons were affected indirectly, for a total of 1,855,000 persons moving because of housing problems.)

Allocating the reason the family head moved to those who moved with him indicates that job factors, that is, to take a job or to look for work, seemed to be the most important basic reason for migration, more than half of the total number of migrants moving for this reason. Approximately 17 percent of the migrants moved because of housing problems. Of the remainder, about one-fifth moved because of change in marital status (including children who moved with their parent who changed his or her marital status), one-fifth moved to join the head of the family (head not enumerated in the survey), and the rest gave a variety of reasons for moving, such as health, to attend school, to be in a different climate, to retire, to go home after resigning from a job, legal matters, etc.

The subsequent discussion of reasons for moving refers only to those persons whose move was directly compelled by a specific reason. The data reveal that the largest group (other than that moving with head) moved to take a job. Approximately one-half of all veteran males and one-quarter of all nonveteran males moved for

this reason. Among females only about four percent gave this reason as a cause for moving.

A comparison of migrant veterans and nonveterans aged 25 to 44 years reveals no appreciable difference in the distribution of reasons given for moving. Comparisons between nonveterans and veterans 14 to 24 years old are not valid because the nonveterans tended to be younger and thus to move more often with the head of the family.

Persons who moved because they were looking for work traveled longer distances than those who moved for any other specified reason with the exception of the small groups who moved to join the head of the family or for reasons of health. Approximately 60 percent of the job-seeking migrants crossed State lines in moving, whereas only 47 percent of the persons who moved to take a job already arranged changed their State of residence. About seven-tenths of all persons whose move was caused by housing problems remained within the State, whereas seven-tenths of those who moved for health reasons moved to other States.

Statistics on the reason for the last civilian move of the migrant civilian population by veteran status, type of last civilian move, age, and sex are presented in table 2.

Educational attainment.--In general, the educational level of the migrant population 20 to 29 years of age was somewhat above that of the nonmigrant population of the same age. About 19 percent of all migrants 20 to 29 years of age had completed one or more years of college, as compared with 13 percent of the nonmigrants.

Although for all persons aged 20 to 29 years, the proportions moving within States and between States were approximately equal, for those having completed one or more years of college the interstate migration rate was much higher among all groups--veterans, nonveteran males, and females. Conversely, the persons who completed no more than grade school made the majority of their moves within State boundaries, thus traveling less far than those with higher education in making economic and other adjustments which were suitable to them.

In table 3 data are shown on years of school completed by the civilian population 20 to 29 years of age, by migration status, type of last civilian move, and sex.

School enrollment.--In October, 1946, approximately 98 percent of the children 7 to 13 years old were enrolled in school. Since most States have compulsory attendance laws covering children of these ages, enrollment among such children is normally very high. Consequently, migrants in this age group have maintained the same high rate of enrollment as nonmigrants. For children 14 and 15 years old, however, and espe-

cially for males in this age group, the proportion enrolled in school among migrants was found to be lower than among nonmigrants. Although these differences are of only marginal significance because of sampling variability, they are not unexpected since most States allow exceptions to the compulsory attendance laws above age 13. As a result, the difficulties associated with starting in a strange school may effectively reduce the incentive to re-enter school after moving.

Table 4 shows statistics on the school enrollment of migrant and nonmigrant children 7 to 15 years old, by age and sex.

Major occupation group.--During the period under consideration, professional and semiprofessional workers were one of the most migratory of all occupational groups--approximately 12 percent of the males and 10 percent of the females were migrants. For males, farm laborers and foremen also showed relatively high mobility. Among the least mobile groups were farmers and farm managers, and service workers, except domestic. For females in the labor force, none of the larger occupation groups (other than the professional and semiprofessional workers) showed any disproportionate migration rates. The differentials in the rate of migration among the major occupation groups represent, in general, a continuation of the prewar pattern.

Table 5 gives data on the major occupation group of the civilian labor force 14 years old and over by migration status and sex.

**DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Migration status.--The civilian noninstitutional population of the United States is classified by migration status for a specified period on the basis of the number of intercounty moves made during the period. Two categories are distinguished:

1. Migrants.--This group consists of all persons who, as civilians, changed their county of residence at any time during the specified period. Not included are civilians whose only move during the period was made in connection with service in the armed forces (for example, return home from a separation center). Included are not only all civilians who either moved between counties, between States, or from outside continental United States, but also those persons who had moved but returned to their original county of residence within the given period of time. These latter persons have been classified as nonmigrants in previous releases.

2. Nonmigrants.--This group consists of persons who made no intercounty moves as civilians during the specified period, that is, persons who were living in the same county throughout the entire 14 months.

Type of last civilian move.--Migrants are further classified on the basis of their last civilian move into the following three types:

1. Migrants within a State.--This group consists of migrants whose last civilian move was from one county to another county within the same State.

2. Migrants between States.--This group consists of migrants whose last civilian move involved a change of State as well as of county of residence.

3. From outside continental United States.--This group comprises persons whose last civilian move was from a territory or outlying possession of the United States or a foreign country. Since migrants in this release are classified on the basis of civilian moves only, the figure for migrants from outside continental United States does not include the many servicemen who returned from duty overseas.

Reason for last civilian move.--Migrants are also classified on the basis of the reason given for their last civilian move. More than one reason could be given. The following are the categories into which the reasons given by the respondent were classified:

1. To take a job.--Includes persons who had secured a new job in a different county before moving; persons who moved when the location of their job was changed; persons who retained the same job but moved to be closer to the job.

2. To look for work.--Includes persons who left their last county of residence to look for work and were unemployed when they arrived in the county in which they were residing at the time of the survey.

3. Housing problems.--Includes all persons who changed their county of residence because of some problem connected with housing accommodations.

4. Change in marital status.--Includes persons who left their last county of residence because of some change in their marital status, that is, they had married or had been divorced or widowed.

5. To join head of family.--Includes dependents who moved to join the family head.

6. Head of family moved.--Includes all persons who moved primarily because the head of the family moved and who moved with the head. The persons giving this reason were usually the wife and children of the head.

7. Health.-- Includes persons who left their last county of residence for reasons connected with their health, or that of another member of the family.

8. Other.--The most frequent of these were "to attend school" and "to be in a different climate."

Veterans.--A veteran of World War II is defined as a person who has been a member of the armed forces of the United States any time after September 15, 1940, and has been discharged or has been released to civilian life through transfer to a reserve status or to inactive duty. This release shows separate data for male veterans only.

Highest grade of school completed.--The October, 1946, survey included a question on the formal educational attainment of each person 5 to 29 years of age. The question on the schedule asked for the highest full grade that the person had completed in the regular school system--public, private, or parochial school, college or university.

School enrollment.--The school enrollment statistics are based on the replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person had been enrolled for the current term or school year in any type of day or night school, public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include elementary schools (but not kindergartens), junior or senior high schools, and colleges or universities. Persons enrolled in special schools not in the regular school system, such as trade schools, business colleges, or extension schools, are not included in the enrollment figures. Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and training courses given directly on the job, are not reported as enrolled in school.

Major occupation group.--Data are shown in this release on the major occupation group of the civilian labor force, which consists of all persons 14 years old and over who were classified either as "employed" or "unemployed."

The occupation categories shown here are largely major groups in the classification system used in the 1940 Census of Population. In October, 1946, employed persons were classified according to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. Unemployed persons were classified according to the last full-time civilian job lasting two consecutive weeks or more. Persons who reported that they never held a full-time civilian job of two consecutive weeks or more are shown separately in the category "Never worked at a full-time job."

Source and reliability of the estimates.--The estimates presented in this release are based on data obtained in connection with the

Census Bureau's monthly sample survey, consisting of about 25,000 households located in 68 areas in 42 States and the District of Columbia. Since the estimates are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. The following table indicates the approximate level of sampling variability of estimates of selected sizes.

Size of estimate	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:
10,000.....	8,000
50,000.....	23,000
100,000.....	36,000
300,000.....	77,000
500,000.....	111,000
1,000,000.....	170,000
3,000,000.....	370,000
5,000,000.....	520,000
10,000,000.....	840,000
20,000,000.....	1,340,000
40,000,000.....	2,160,000

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 indicates the approximate sampling variability of percentages of selected sizes based on the total number of migrants.

Estimated percentage	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:
5.0.....	1.2
10.0.....	1.8
25.0.....	2.6
50.0.....	3.1
75.0.....	2.6
90.0.....	1.8
95.0.....	1.2

In addition to sampling variation, the estimates are subject to biases due to errors of response and to nonreporting, but the possibility of such errors is not included in these measures of reliability since a complete census would be similarly affected.

There is evidence that in the survey veterans of World War II were underrepresented in the sample relative to nonveterans and that some veterans were misreported as nonveterans. It is not certain, therefore, that the World War II veterans identified as such in the survey adequately represent all World War II veterans. The enumerated data were adjusted to an independent total of veterans obtained from the War and Navy Departments. Even the adjusted data, however, are affected somewhat by the underrepresentation and misreporting.