

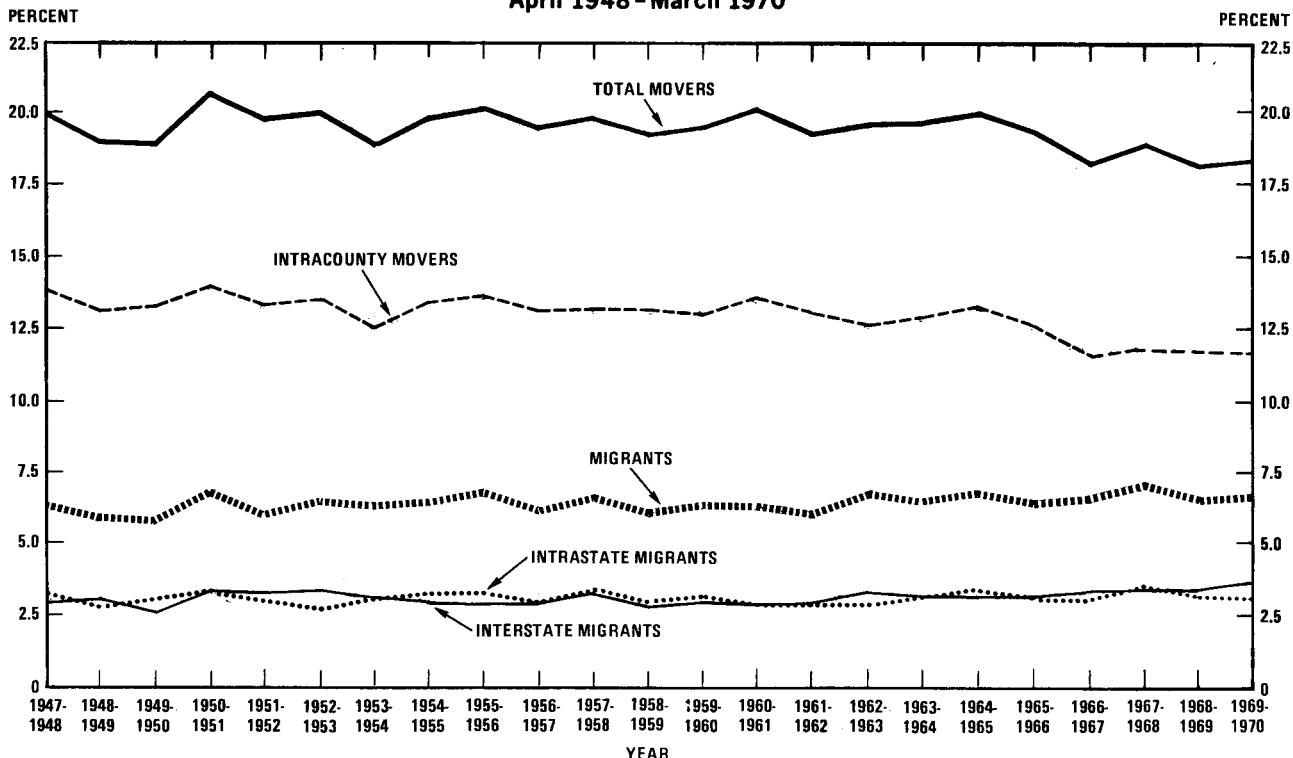
# Population Characteristics

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## MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES MARCH 1969 TO MARCH 1970

Movers by Type of Mobility as Percent of the Population 1 Year Old and Over, for the United States:  
April 1948 - March 1970



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# Mobility of the Population of the United States March 1969 to March 1970

Of the 199.0 million persons 1 year old and over living in the United States in March 1970, 36.5 million, or 18.4 percent, had been living at a different address in March 1969, according to estimates from the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Of the 36.5 million persons who had moved between March 1969 and March 1970, 23.2 million had moved within counties, and 13.3 million between counties--6.3 million within the same State and 7.1 million between States. An additional 1.6 million had been living abroad in March 1969. According to the 23 annual surveys conducted since 1948, the percentage of the population who changed address during the preceding 12 months has ranged from 18.3 to 21.0, a relatively small variation. With the exception of persons who moved from, but returned to, their 1969 address during the survey year, the survey provides an estimate of the number of persons who moved during the year. It does not, however, provide an estimate of the total number of moves during the year, since some movers may have moved more than once.

Data collected from the survey revealed that Negroes had a higher total mobility rate than whites. The total mobility rate (percent changing address) was 21.0 for Negroes and 18.0 for whites. The higher mobility rate reported by Negroes, however, was due to greater local mobility, that is, movement within counties. Between March 1969 and March 1970, 16.6 percent of the Negro population moved within the same county, but only about 11.0 percent of whites made such moves. The migration rate, or movement between counties, was higher for whites than for Negroes, being 7.0 percent for whites and 4.4 percent for Negroes. Whites had higher rates of migration within States and between States.

Typically, peak mobility rates occur among persons in their early twenties--the age when children normally have left or are leaving their parental homes and are in the process of going to school, finding suitable employment, and setting up households of their own. The total mobility rate for persons 22 to 24 years of age was 44.5 percent. After this peak is reached, mobility rates generally decrease with increasing age. Persons who first married during the survey year had, as might be expected, an extremely high mobility rate of 83.8 percent.

A clear relationship between employment status and mobility status is shown by the survey data. Both the local mobility rate and the migration rate were higher for unemployed men than for employed men. Similarly, of men who were employed in

1969, both rates were higher for men who worked less than 50 weeks in 1969 than for men who worked 50 weeks or more. Employment status (more specifically, being employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force) refers to the time of the survey and therefore represents status at the end of the twelve-month mobility interval. A more complete examination of the relationship between these two variables would require collecting information on employment status at the beginning as well as the end of the mobility interval, as has been done in the past (see the section below on "Related Reports").

Occupation, education, and income show a somewhat less consistent relationship to the various types of mobility. Among nonfarm workers, male white-collar workers had higher migration rates, but lower local mobility rates, than male blue-collar and service workers combined. The data on education indicate that men who had completed one or more years of college had higher migration rates than men who had not, but there were no significant differences in local mobility rates between men who had attended college and those who had not. The same pattern between mobility and education also applied to women. That white-collar workers and persons who have attended college should have relatively high levels of migration is basically understandable in terms of the more nearly nationwide labor markets in which such people find jobs.

Men whose 1969 incomes were less than \$7,000 had higher local mobility rates than men whose 1969 incomes were \$7,000 or more. This statistically significant finding has been noted in previous reports in this series, but such collapsing of income categories may well conceal a more complex relationship between income and mobility. The most important effects of income on geographical mobility are probably through its interaction with other variables, but the sample is not large enough to permit such refined analysis.

The population living in standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) in 1970 had a higher local mobility rate, but a lower migration rate, than the population living in nonmetropolitan areas. Central cities of SMSA's had a higher local mobility rate, but a lower migration rate, than the mostly suburban ring areas of SMSA's outside the central cities. These statistics demonstrate the lesser amount of long-distance movement but the somewhat greater local residential turnover of population in metropolitan areas, particularly in central cities of metropolitan areas.

## RELATED REPORTS

Figures for 1968-1969 on the mobility status of the population were issued in Series P-20, No. 193, and similar statistics have been published in this series each year beginning with the 1947-48 period. In connection with the 1963 migration supplement, the Bureau of Labor Statistics sponsored additional questions on labor force status at the beginning of the migration period and on reasons for moving. The data relating to reasons for moving have been analyzed by the Bureau of the Census, and the results appear in Series P-20, No. 154. Additional data appear in Special Labor Force Report No. 144 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Statistics on the mobility of the population for cities, counties, SMSA's, urbanized areas, State economic areas, States, divisions, regions, and the United States appear in Volume I of the 1960 Census of Population. Detailed statistics on mobility status by color and sex for State economic areas, SMSA's, States, divisions, and regions appear in Volume II, Subject Reports: 2A, State of Birth; 2B, Mobility for States and State Economic Areas; 2C, Mobility for Metropolitan Areas; and 2D, Lifetime and Recent Migration. Some other subject reports of the 1960 census present statistics on mobility status in relation to the main subject of the report.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The data for 1970 (covering the period March 1969 to March 1970) shown in this report relate primarily to the population of the United States 1 year old and over. Approximately 1,161,000 members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included, but all other members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The coverage of the population for the earlier survey years was essentially the same.

Farm-nonfarm residence.--The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. The method of determining farm-nonfarm residence in the present survey is the same as that used in the 1960 census and in the Current Population Surveys since 1960, but differs from that used in earlier surveys and censuses. According to the current definition, the farm population consists of all persons living in rural territory on places of less than 10 acres yielding agricultural products which sold for \$250 or more in the previous year, or on places of 10 acres or more yielding agricultural products which sold for \$50 or more in the previous year. Rural persons in institutions, motels, and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming are not classified as farm population.

Geographic regions. The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented in this report, represent groups of States, as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

West: Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence.--The population residing in standard metropolitan statistical areas constitute the metropolitan population. Except in New England a standard metropolitan statistical area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in a standard metropolitan statistical area if according to certain criteria they are essentially metropolitan in character and socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, standard metropolitan statistical areas have been defined on a town rather than county basis. Standard metropolitan statistical areas of this report are identical with the standard metropolitan statistical areas of the 1960 census and do not include any subsequent additions or other changes.

Mobility status.--The population of the United States has been classified according to mobility status on the basis of a comparison between the place of residence of each individual at the survey date and the place of residence 1 year earlier. This comparison restricts the classification in terms of mobility status to the population 1 year old and over at the survey date.

The information on mobility status was obtained from the responses to a series of inquiries. The first of these was "Was ... living in this house March 1 a year ago?" If the answer was "No," the enumerator asked, "Was ... living in this same county on March 1 a year ago?" If the response was "No" again, the enumerator asked, "What State (or foreign country) was ... living in on March 1 a year ago?" In the classification three main categories are distinguished:

1. Nonmobile persons or nonmovers.--This group consists of persons who were living in the same house at the end of the period as at the beginning of the period.

2. Mobile persons or movers.--This group consists of all persons who were living in a different house in the United States at the end of the period than at the beginning of the period.

3. Persons abroad.--This group consists of persons, either citizens or aliens, whose place of residence was outside the United States at the beginning of the period, that is, in an outlying area under the jurisdiction of the United States or in a foreign country. These persons are distinguished from "movers" who are defined here as persons who moved from one place to another within the United States.

Mobile persons are subdivided in terms of type of mobility into the following two major groups:

1. Same county (intracounty).--Those persons living in a different house but in the same county at the beginning and end of the specified period.

2. Migrants, or different county (inter-county movers).--This group consists of persons living in a different county in the United States at the beginning and end of the period.

Migrants are further classified by type of migration on the basis of a comparison of the State of residence at the end of the period with the State of residence at the beginning of the period.

1. Migrants within a State (intrastate migrants), excludes intracounty movers.

2. Migrants between States (interstate migrants).

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

Median age.--Median age is that which divides the population into two equal parts, one-half of the population being older than the median and one-half younger.

Race.--The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: white, Negro, and "other races." The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro. In most of the tables of this report, "other races" are shown in combination with the Negro population.

Years of school completed.--Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to questions concerning the highest grade of school attended by the person and whether or not that grade was finished. The

questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

Marital status.--The marital status classification identifies four major categories: Single, married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to the marital status at the time of enumeration.

The category "married" is further divided into "married, spouse present," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent." A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or on vacation, visiting, in a hospital, etc., at the time of the enumeration. Persons reported as separated included those with legal separations, those living apart with intentions of obtaining a divorce, and other persons permanently or temporarily estranged from their spouses because of marital discord. The group "other married, spouse absent" includes married persons employed and living for several months at a considerable distance from their homes, those whose spouses were absent in the Armed Forces, in-migrants whose spouses remained in other areas, husbands or wives of inmates of institutions, and all other married persons (except those reported as separated) whose places of residence were not the same as that of their spouses.

For the purpose of this report the group "other marital status" includes "widowed and divorced," "separated," and "other married, spouse absent."

Household.--A household includes all of the persons who occupy a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms, or a room which constitutes a housing unit under the 1960 census rules. A group of rooms or a single room is regarded as a housing unit only when it is occupied as separate living quarters, that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure, and when there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

## Household relationship

Head.--One person in each household is designated the "head." The head is usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the group. The number of heads, therefore, is equal to the number of households.

A relative of the head is any household member who is related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Primary families and individuals.--The term "primary family" refers to the head of a household and all other persons in the household related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption. If nobody in the household is related to the head, then the head himself constitutes a "primary individual." A household can contain one and only one primary family or primary individual. The number of "primary" families and individuals is identical with the number of households.

Labor force and employment status.--The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed.--Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity within the past 4 weeks, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Labor force.--Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force.--All civilians who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long-term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Occupation.--Data on occupation are shown for the employed and relate 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. The major groups used here are mainly the major groups used in the 1960 Census of Population. The composition of these groups is shown in Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part I, United States Summary.

Data are also shown for four broad occupational groups (white-collar workers, manual workers, service workers, and farm workers), which represent combinations of the 11 major groups.

All persons engaged directly in agricultural production are classified as farm workers in this report. This included farm proprietors, managers, foremen, and laborers.

The nonagricultural group is subdivided into three groups. The white-collar group includes professional workers, proprietors, managers, and sales and clerical workers. The manual group includes craftsmen, machine operatives, and laborers (other than farm); and the service category includes private household workers and other service workers.

Weeks worked in previous year.--Persons are classified according to the number of different weeks during the previous year in which they did any civilian work for pay or profit (including paid vacations and sick leave) or worked without pay on a family-operated farm or business.

Income.--For each person 14 years old and over in the sample, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in the previous year from each of the following sources: (1) Money wages or salary; (2) net income from nonfarm

self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security, veterans' payments, or other government or private pensions; (5) interest (on bonds or savings), dividends, and income from annuities, estates, or trusts; (6) net income from boarders or lodgers, or from renting property to others; (7) all other sources such as unemployment benefits, public assistance, alimony, etc.

The amounts received represent income before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. If any amount was \$10,000 or more, it was recorded as a specific amount wherever possible. It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the previous year the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the survey date.

Total income is the sum of amounts reported separately for wage or salary income, self-employment income, and other income. Wage or salary income is defined as the total money earnings received for work performed as an employee. It represents the amount received before deducting for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, etc. Self-employment income is defined as net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from a business, farm, or professional enterprise in which the person was engaged on his own account.

Class of worker.--The data on class of worker are for persons who worked in the previous year and refer to the job held longest during the year. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of weeks. The class-of-worker classification specifies "wage and salary workers" and "self-employed workers." Wage and salary workers receive wages, salary, commissions, tips, pay in kind, or piece rates from a private employer or from a government unit. Self-employed workers have their own business, profession, or trade, or operate a farm for profit or fees.

## SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates are based on data obtained monthly in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and independent cities, with coverage in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Approximately 50,000 occupied households are eligible for interview each month. Of this number, 2,250 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are

not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 50,000 there are also about 8,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be enumerated.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian non-institutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. The independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. To these figures were added the members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post and the institutional population. The estimated numbers of inmates of institutions shown in this report were obtained by assuming that the percent of the population who were inmates in each age and sex group in 1970 was the same as in the 1960 census.

Rounding of estimates.--Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. Percentages are based on the unrounded absolute numbers.

Reliability of the estimates.--Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The figures presented in tables A and B are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown in this report. In order to derive standard errors that would be applicable to a wide variety of items and could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the

standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item. Table A contains the standard errors of estimated numbers.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more. Table B contains the standard errors of estimated percentages.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors.--Table 7 of this report shows that 12,686,000 males age 14 and over moved to a different house in the United States between March 1969 and March 1970. Table A shows the standard error on an estimate of this size to be approximately 303,000. The chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census by less than 303,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have shown a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 606,000 (twice the standard error).

Of these 12,686,000 movers, 4,544,000, or 35.8 percent, moved to a different county. Table B shows the standard error of 35.8 percent of a base of 12,686,000 to be approximately 1.1 percent. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 35.8 percent would be within 1.1 percent of a complete census figure, and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 2.2 percent of a complete census figure, i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be between 33.6 and 38.0 percent.

Caution should be used when analyzing estimates of net migration between regions, because they are based on the difference between the number of outmigrants and the number of inmigrants for the region and have relatively large sampling errors. For example, table 13 of this report shows that in 1970 there were 77,000 migrants of Negro and other races moving into the West from other geographic regions, while during this same period 45,000 of these migrants moved out of the West. The apparent result is a net migration into the West of 32,000 persons of Negro and other races.

Table A of this report shows the standard errors for estimates of 77,000 and 45,000 migrants to be approximately 21,300 and 16,000, respectively. The sampling error for 32,000, the difference of these estimates, is about 26,600. The chances are 68 out of 100 that an estimate based on the sample would show a figure differing from a complete census by less than 26,600. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the sample would show an estimate differing from a complete census by less than 53,200; that is, the 95 percent confidence interval for Negro and other races would include estimates from 85,200 net inmigrants to 21,000 net outmigrants for the West.

**Table A.--STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS**  
(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	12,000	2,500,000.....	124,000
50,000.....	17,000	5,000,000.....	180,000
100,000.....	25,000	10,000,000.....	266,000
250,000.....	39,000	25,000,000.....	472,000
500,000.....	54,000	50,000,000.....	771,000
1,000,000.....	77,000	100,000,000....	1,330,000

**Table B.--STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES**  
(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)								
	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98.....	2.1	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
5 or 95.....	3.3	2.4	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
10 or 90.....	4.6	3.2	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
25 or 75.....	6.6	4.7	3.3	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3
50.....	7.6	5.4	3.8	3.0	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.4