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MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES APRIL 1950 TO APRIL 1951

Of the 148 million persons one year old and over in the United States in April 1951, 117 million were living in the same house as in April 1950, 31 million were living in a different house within the United States, and about one-third of a million had come in from outside continental United States, according to the results of a sample survey released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. Of the 31 million mobile persons, that is, persons who had changed residence within the United States during the year, 21 million had moved within a county and 10 million were migrants, that is, they had moved from one county to another. About 4 million more persons had moved in the year ending in April 1951 than in either of the two preceding years. The April 1951 survey showed that about 21 percent of the total population one year old and over had moved as compared with 19 percent in the March 1950 and in the April 1949 surveys. Probably most of this increase in mobility is attributable to the Korean war and the current defense mobilization.

Other findings based on the data for April 1951 are as follows:

1. The data for the surveys from 1947 through 1951 show a slightly higher mobility for males than for females (table 1).

2. Whites and nonwhites were equally mobile, but the nonwhites generally moved shorter distances (table 1).

3. Young adults were more mobile and moved farther than older persons (table 3).

4. Persons living in rural-nonfarm areas had been more mobile than persons living in either urban or rural-farm areas (table 2).

5. For persons of comparable ages, married persons who were not living with their spouses were, for the most part, more mobile than persons of any other marital status (table 4).

6. Persons living in families were less mobile and moved shorter distances than persons who were not living with any relatives.

7. Persons in the labor force were more mobile than adults not in the labor force, and the unemployed were more mobile than the employed (table 7).

8. Farmers and managerial workers tended to be less mobile than persons with other occupations. There were few statistically significant differences in mobility among other occupational groups (table 8).

9. Persons employed in agriculture were less mobile, and persons employed in construction were more mobile, than persons employed in most of the other industries (table 9).

The data in this report are estimates based on 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. The figures in this survey exclude members of the armed forces except for those living off post or with their families on post.

URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENCE

About 24 percent of the rural-nonfarm population of April 1951, 22 percent of the urban population, and 16 percent of the rural-farm population had moved between April 1950 and

April 1951 (table 2). The migration rate for the rural-nonfarm population (9 percent) also exceeded the corresponding rates for both the urban and rural-farm population (about 7 percent). In urban areas there were more migrants between States than within a State. In rural areas, however, the number of migrants between States was exceeded by those within a State.

Since, for this survey, urban or rural residence in 1951 was not classified by urban or rural residence in 1950, the net loss or gain sustained by each type of area cannot be inferred from the type of mobility data presented here. For example, we cannot infer from the data of this survey that the rural-nonfarm population had a net gain due to movement from other types of areas.

SEX, COLOR, AND AGE

The results of the mobility surveys of the past five years (1947 through 1951)¹ taken together indicate a consistent pattern of slightly higher mobility for males than for females. The data for April 1951 alone, however, do not show statistically significant differences in mobility between males and females during the preceding year, nor are such differences evident from any single previous survey (table 1).

Although whites and nonwhites had equal proportions of movers (21 percent), there were differences between their respective mobility patterns. Short distance moves were relatively more frequent and long distance moves less frequent among nonwhites than among whites. About 16 percent of the nonwhites and 14 percent of the whites had moved within a county, whereas 2 percent of the nonwhites and 4 percent of the whites had moved from one State to another. Approximately equal proportions of whites and nonwhites (4 percent) had moved intermediate distances, i.e., between counties within a State.

The mobility of the population varied considerably from one age group to another (table 3). Adults in their twenties were the most mobile; about 35 percent of them had changed their residence during the preceding year. Among adults 30 years old and over, mobility tended to decline with increasing age. The proportion of adults who had moved decreased from 26 percent for persons 30 to 34 years old to 10 percent for persons 65 years old and over. This pattern of decreasing mobility for each successive age group of adults was generally characteristic for each type of mobility. The mobility of children, as might be expected, reflected the mobility of

their parents. The greater mobility of younger parents very probably accounts for the higher mobility rates of children 1 to 13 years old (23 percent), and the lesser mobility of older parents for the lower mobility rates of children 14 to 17 years old (18 percent).

The mobility patterns of males and females for each age group were similar except for those aged 18 and 19. In this age group, females were more mobile than males (37 percent of the females as compared with 22 percent of the males). From these data it is not possible to determine the effect of the draft and enlistments in the armed forces on the mobility patterns of young men in this age group. Even if some of the potentially most mobile 18-and-19-year-old men were withdrawn from the civilian population by entry into the armed forces, men are probably less mobile than women in these ages. The fact that women usually marry at younger ages than men probably accounts, in large part, for the greater mobility of 18-and-19-year-old women.

MARITAL STATUS AND FAMILY STATUS

Marital status appears to be closely related to mobility. Of the married men, about 41 percent of those who were not living with their wives on the survey date had moved but only 21 percent of those who were living with their wives had moved. About 21 percent of the widowers and divorced men had moved. Single men were less mobile than men who had ever been married. Only 17 percent of the single men had moved (table 4).

The high mobility of men who were "married, wife absent" seems merely to reflect the fact that this particular marital situation is often a by-product of mobility. The explanation of the low mobility of single men is by no means so apparent. Since a large proportion of the single men are to be found in the age groups of highest mobility, it might be expected that single men as a group would be quite mobile. Yet this very group of single young men, aged 18 to 34 years, have an unexpectedly low mobility rate. Only 19 percent of the single men from 18 to 34 years old were mobile as compared with over 39 percent of all other men in these ages. Many of the young single men who were mobile are not included in this survey because they were in the armed forces. Also, single men away at college were defined as living with their parents regardless of the number and distance of moves which they may have made from April 1950 to April 1951. The higher mobility rate of married couples than of single persons may reflect, in part, the changes of residence which newly married persons usually make when they become married.

¹ See section on "Related reports."

Married women were more mobile than single women or women who were divorced and widowed. About 36 percent of the women who were not living with their husbands on the survey date, and 21 percent of the women who were living with their husbands were mobile. About 16 percent of the single and of the widowed and divorced women were mobile. Furthermore, the migration rate for women who were not living with their husbands (15 percent) was considerably greater than the migration rate for women in the other marital categories (about 5 percent).

The mobility rate for young single women was also low. Only 21 percent of the single women from 18 to 34 years old had moved, whereas 35 percent of all other women in these ages had moved. For each age group, married women who were not living with their husbands were highly mobile.

Family membership also appears to contribute to variations in mobility patterns. Only 20 percent of the persons "in families" had moved, whereas about 30 percent of the persons "not in families" had moved (table 5). The migration rate of family members (7 percent) was also considerably less than the migration rate of individuals not in families (13 percent).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

From 1950 to 1951, there was an increase in the mobility of males who were in the labor force (table 7). The percentage of male workers who had moved increased from 19 percent in 1950 to 21 percent in 1951.²

In 1951, as in previous periods, the proportion of male workers who had moved within a county (14 percent) exceeded the proportion of male nonworkers who had moved within a county (11 percent). For the first time since the 1940-47 period, however, the migration rate of male workers was about as great as that of male nonworkers. The data for 1951 as compared with 1950 indicate an increased migration of workers, but no significant change in the migration of nonworkers. Undoubtedly a large number of workers migrated to defense production areas from April 1950 to April 1951. In many of the areas of expanded arms production and particularly where new defense plants were opened, it may have been necessary to supplement the local labor supply with a substantial number of in-migrant workers.

The mobility pattern of women who were in the labor force was similar to that of women who

were not in the labor force. About 21 percent of the women workers and 19 percent of the women nonworkers were mobile, and 7 percent of both workers and nonworkers were migrants.

The 1951 data are generally consistent with the pattern (which has been observed in previous surveys) of the unemployment rate having been higher the greater the distance moved. Migrants between States had a higher unemployment rate than migrants within a State, and the movers within a county had a higher unemployment rate than workers who remained in the same house.

OCCUPATION

The mobility rates of male workers ranged from 12 to 26 percent in the various occupation groups (table 8). Farmers and farm managers can be classified as the least mobile group, since their mobility rate (12 percent) was clearly lower than the next higher rate (18 percent).

The mobility rate of managers, officials, and proprietors was clearly different from the rates for some of the other major occupational groups. This rate for the managerial group (18 percent) was significantly less than the rates for operatives (24 percent), nonfarm laborers (25 percent), and farm laborers (26 percent); and there was also some evidence that it was lower than the rate for professionals (23 percent). However, the mobility rate for managerial workers did not differ significantly from the rates for service workers, clerical and sales workers, and craftsmen and foremen.

There was also some evidence that the percentage of service workers who had moved (19 percent) was less than the percentages of operatives (24 percent), farm laborers (25 percent), and nonfarm laborers (26 percent) who had moved. All other differences in mobility rates among the major occupation groups were too small to have statistical significance.

The number of statistically significant differences among the proportions of male migrants in the various occupations was also somewhat limited. The migration rate of farm laborers (14 percent) was not significantly higher than the migration rate of professionals, but it was significantly higher than the rates for the men in all other occupations. Similarly, the migration rate of professionals (10 percent) was not significantly higher than the migration rate of craftsmen and operatives, but there was some evidence that the migration rate of professionals was higher than the rates of 4 to 6 percent for farmers, clerical and sales workers, service workers, nonfarm laborers, and managers, officials, and proprietors.

² U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 36, "Internal Migration and Mobility in the United States: March 1949 to March 1950," December 9, 1951.

Of the women in the experienced labor force, the professional and service groups were among the most mobile; the two farm groups and the managerial group were among the least mobile. Other differences between women in the various occupation groups could have been due to the large sampling variability of the data.

In previous surveys, mobility data classified by occupation were shown for employed workers only. Unemployment rates vary greatly among occupation groups, however; and the unemployed are particularly mobile. In order to obtain more comprehensive mobility data for persons in each of the occupation groups, the occupational data in this report are shown for the employed and the unemployed who had had previous work experience combined. A special tabulation is being made to examine the mobility of various occupation groups of the employed separately.

INDUSTRY

There was little variation in mobility among men employed in manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, service industries, and the public utility industries (table 10). The percentages of men in each of these industries who had moved ranged from 19 to 22 percent. Men employed in agriculture, however, were less mobile and men in construction were more mobile than men in most of the other industries. About 16 percent of the men employed in agriculture and 28 percent of the men employed in construction had moved.

About 6 percent of the men employed in each of the industries except construction were classified as migrants. The migration rate for construction workers was about 11 percent. The nature of the construction industry and the requirements of the defense production program undoubtedly are factors which account for much of the high mobility and the large proportion of long distance movers among construction workers. The low total mobility and the large proportion of intrastate migrants among men employed in agriculture are consistent with the mobility patterns observed for farm operators and for rural-farm residents.

There is some evidence that the women who were employed in the service industries and in wholesale and retail trade were more mobile than women employed in agriculture. About 22 percent of the women in the service and trade industries had moved as compared with 14 percent of the women in agriculture. The data also show that the migration rate (7 percent) of women in the service and trade industries was larger than the migration rate (4 percent) of women in manufacturing. Although many of the remaining differ-

ences among mobility rates for women employed in the various industries are large, they are not statistically significant.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The data for 1951 (covering the mobility period April 1950 to April 1951) shown in this report relate primarily to the civilian population of the United States one year old and over. Approximately 610,000 members of the armed forces living off post or with their families on post were also included, but all other members of the armed forces were excluded. For simplicity, the group covered is called the "population" or the "civilian population" in this report. The coverage of the population for the earlier survey years was essentially the same.

Urban and rural residence.--The definition of urban and rural areas used in the April 1951 survey was substantially the same as that used in the 1950 Census and similar to that used in the Current Population Survey for March 1950, but it differed appreciably from that used in earlier censuses and surveys. According to the new definition used in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. The main difference between the definition used in this survey and that used in the March 1950 survey is that, in the latter, unincorporated places of 2,500 or more outside urban-fringe areas were counted as rural.

The rural population is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population.

Classification of the rural population into farm and nonfarm in 1951 is based on residence at the time of enumeration, without regard to occupation. The method of classifying farm and nonfarm residence in the April 1951 survey was the same as that used in the 1950 Census and the March 1950 survey. Persons on "farms" who were paying cash rent for their house and yard only

were classified as nonfarm; also, all persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as nonfarm.

Mobility status.--The civilian population of the United States has been classified according to mobility status on the date of the survey on the basis of a comparison between the place of residence of each individual at the survey date and the place of residence one year earlier. This comparison restricts the classification in terms of mobility status to the population born before the beginning of the mobility period; hence, children under one year old are omitted from this report.

Three main categories are distinguished:

1. 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.

2. 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.

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

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

1. Same-county movers.--These are 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 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.

a. Migrants within a State.

b. Migrants between States.--Among the migrants between States, a distinction is made between those who moved between contiguous States and those who moved between noncontiguous States. States have been defined as contiguous if their boundaries touch at any point.

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

Colcr.--Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who are not definitely of Indian or other nonwhite race are classified as white. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and the few persons of other nonwhite races.

Marital status.--Persons 14 years old and over are grouped into four major categories with respect to marital status: single (never married); married, spouse present (husband and wife living in the same household); married, spouse absent (husband and wife not living in the same household); and widowed and divorced.

A person was classified as "married, spouse present" if the husband or wife was reported as a member of the household or quasi household even though he or she may have been temporarily absent on business or vacation, visiting, in a general hospital, etc., at the time of enumeration. The group "married, spouse absent" includes married persons whose marriages had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), married persons employed and living for several months at a considerable distance from their homes, those whose spouse was absent in the armed forces, husbands and wives of inmates of institutions, and all other married persons whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their spouse.

Family status.--Persons "in families" are those who are residing with other persons to whom they are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Persons "not in families" are those who are not living with any relatives. In other reports, persons "not in families" are referred to as unrelated individuals and inmates of institutions. An unrelated individual may constitute a one-person household by himself, or he may be part of a household including one or more other families or individuals, or he may reside in a room in a lodginghouse, dormitory, etc. Thus, a widow living by herself or with one or more other persons not related to her, a lodger not related to the head of the household or anyone else in the household, and a maid living in her employer's household with no relatives are examples of unrelated individuals.

Employment status

Employed persons comprise those who, during the survey week, were either (a) "At work"--those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (b) "With a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because

of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff. Also included are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days.

Unemployed persons include those who did not work at all during the survey week, and who were looking for work. Also included as unemployed are persons who would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their line of work or in the community.

The civilian labor force comprises the total of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above.

The labor force comprises (a) the total of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above (i.e., the civilian labor force), and (b) persons serving in the armed forces who, at the time of the survey, were living off post or with their families on post. Members of the armed forces living on post, apart from their families, are not included.

The experienced civilian labor force includes the employed persons and those unemployed persons who have had previous work experience.

Not in the labor force includes those persons 14 years old and over not classified as employed, unemployed, or in the armed forces. Persons who were engaged in "own home" housework, in school, inmates of institutions, retired, permanently unable or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey fell in an "off" season, and the voluntarily idle are considered as "not in the labor force." Persons doing only incidental unpaid work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not being in the labor force.

Occupation and industry.--The data on occupation refer to the experienced civilian labor force, which is comprised of employed persons and unemployed persons with previous work experience. The industry data refer to employed persons only. For employed persons, the occupation and industry information relate to the job held during the survey weeks; for experienced and unemployed persons, the information relates to the last job held. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the survey week.

The occupational and industrial categories shown are largely major groups in the classification systems used in the 1950 Census of Popu-

lation. In the classification by industry, the category "Service industries" includes the following 1950 major groups: finance, insurance, and real estate; entertainment and recreation services; and professional and related services. The residual category "All other industries" includes forestry, fisheries, mining, and public administration. By "public administration" is meant those activities which are uniquely governmental in character, such as legislative and judicial activities and most of the activities in the executive agencies. Government agencies engaged in educational and medical services and in activities commonly carried on by private enterprises, such as transportation service and manufacturing, are classified in the appropriate industrial category. The specific occupation and industry titles included in each major group may be obtained by writing to the Bureau of the Census.

RELATED REPORTS

Mobility statistics for other recent periods have been published in the following Census Bureau reports:

Current Population Reports

Series P-20:

- No. 36, "Internal Migration and Mobility in the United States: March 1949 to March 1950."
- No. 28, "Internal Migration in the United States: April 1948 to April 1949."
- No. 22, "Internal Migration in the United States: April 1947 to April 1948."
- No. 17, "Characteristics of Families and Subfamilies in the United States in April 1947."
- No. 14, "Internal Migration in the United States: April 1940 to April 1947."

Series P-50:

- No. 20, "Economic Characteristics of Migrants: April 1949."
- No. 10, "Employment Characteristics of Migrants in the United States: April 1948."

Series P-60:

- No. 5, "Income of Families and Persons in the United States: 1947."

Population

Series P-S:

- No. 24, "Migration in the United States: August 1945 to August 1946."
- No. 14, "Migration of Families in the United States: April 1940 to February 1946."

Population--Con.

Series P-S--Con.

No. 11, "Internal Migration in the United States: April 1940 to February 1946."

No. 8, "Employment of Wartime Migrants: March 1945."

No. 6, "Shift in Farm Population: December 1941 to March 1945."

No. 5, "Civilian Migration in the United States: December 1941 to March 1945."

Estimates of net migration for States, for the 10-year period April 1, 1940, to April 1, 1950, derived from estimates of net population change, births, and deaths, rather than from tabulations of replies to a direct question on migration, have been published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 47, "Provisional Intercensal Estimates of the Population of Regions, Divisions, and States: July 1, 1940 to 1949,"

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

The estimates presented in this report are based on data obtained in connection with the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample consists 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 classified 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 separations.

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 overall 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 classified by urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm residence are subject to somewhat greater sampling variability, and estimates of characteristics classified 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.

The estimates of sampling variability shown below 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 measures of reliability shown below.

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	4.6	5.9	7.2	10.2	14.5

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