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MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES APRIL 1953 TO APRIL 1954

Americans were somewhat less mobile in the year ending in April 1954 than in the previous year, according to the results of a sample survey announced today by Robert W. Burgess, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. In April 1954, 29 million persons 1 year old and over in the United States were living in a different house from the one lived in a year earlier; in April 1953 the corresponding figure was 31,000,000. The number and proportion of short-distance (same-county) movers were below the levels of the previous year. The number of movers within the same county--19 million--was down to the levels that existed prior to the Korean conflict, whereas the proportion of such movers--12.2 percent--was significantly below 13 percent for the first time in the 7-year period 1947 to 1954. The proportion of persons abroad at the beginning of the period continued its rise from the low of April 1951, largely as a result of the return of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents. The total mobility rate for 1953 to 1954 was virtually the same as that for 1949 to 1950, another year in which there was some decline in business activity.

SIZE OF PLACE

As in most previous years, the highest proportion of mobile persons (20.9 percent) was found in the rural-nonfarm population and the lowest (14.9 percent) in the rural-farm population (table 2). Among whites, those living outside urbanized areas but in nonfarm residences were more mobile than those living

in urbanized areas. For both whites and non-whites, the population living in standard metropolitan areas was also somewhat less mobile than that outside. Furthermore, the population of the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area was less mobile than that of smaller metropolitan areas.

The mobility rates by size of place for the periods April 1949 to April 1950 and April 1953 to April 1954 are shown in table A. The 1950 data are from the 1950 Census of Population, Special Reports, Series P-E, No. 5A, "Characteristics by Size of Place." The patterns for the two years were quite similar, except for the ranking of the relatively small population in urbanized areas of less than 250,000.

Table A.--MOBILITY RATES BY SIZE OF PLACE:
APRIL 1954 AND APRIL 1950

(Rates computed on base excluding persons abroad at beginning of period; 1950 rates computed on base excluding persons with mobility status not reported)

Size of place	April 1954	April 1950
Total.....	18.8	17.4
Urban.....	18.8	17.3
In urbanized areas.....	18.1	16.1
Areas of 3,000,000 or more.....	15.1	12.8
Areas of 1,000,000 to 2,999,999...	18.1	14.6
Areas of 250,000 to 999,999.....	20.6	19.3
Areas under 250,000.....	19.6	19.0
Not in urbanized areas.....	20.4	20.4
Places of 25,000 or more.....	18.5	20.9
Places under 25,000.....	21.1	20.3
Rural nonfarm.....	21.1	20.3
Rural farm.....	15.0	13.8

FARM-NONFARM SHIFTS

The net shift away from farms shown in table 4 is not statistically significant. Persons who moved from one farm to another or from one nonfarm residence to another tended to travel shorter distances than those who changed their type of residence. Four out of every five of the persons who moved from one farm to another, for example, stayed within the same county, and only about 1 out of every 20 crossed State lines. At the other extreme, nearly 1 out of every 2 movers from a nonfarm residence to a farm went to a different county and 1 out of every 5, to a different State.

LABOR FORCE STATUS

Those in the labor force were more mobile than those not in the labor force, and the unemployed were more mobile than the employed (table 5). These differences are in agreement with those for previous years. In 1954, for the first time, members of the Armed Forces included in the survey¹ were tabulated separately, rather than being included in the "Employed" category. As might be expected, the members of the Armed Forces were highly mobile; one out of every two were living in another house than a year earlier, and one out of every seven had come back to the United States from abroad.

CLASS OF WORKER AND MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP

There was considerable variation in the mobility rates by class of worker and major industry group (table 6). About 1 out of every 5 private wage and salary workers, for example, was a mover in contrast to about 1 out of every 10 of the self-employed and unpaid family workers. Agricultural laborers had relatively high mobility and migration rates, whereas for agriculture as a whole the rates were depressed by the low mobility of self-employed farmers. Mining had a low migration rate, but a high intracounty mobility rate. In general, there seems to be very different patterns for short-distance movement and for migration.

REGIONAL DATA

The proportion of mobile persons was twice as high in the West as in the Northeast, and the proportion of migrants between States was

¹ Those members who were living off post or with their families on post.

three times as great (table 7). The South ranked second to the West in the proportion of movers. In recent years, nonwhites have tended to be more mobile than whites, whereas whites have tended to move longer distances. In April 1954 a higher proportion of nonwhite movers in each of the four regions had moved from one house to another within the same county.

Data on interregional migrants by region of residence in 1953 and 1954 appear in table 8. These data are in agreement with other evidence that there was a net gain through interregional migration for the West and a loss for the South. Table B presents the number of in-migrants and out-migrants by region for 1953 and 1954, with the corresponding data from the 1950 Census of Population. In both of the years shown, the West had a net gain through interregional migration. The greatest change between the two periods was in the South, which experienced the largest net gain for 1949-1950 but the largest net loss in 1953-1954.

Table B.--IN-MIGRANTS AND OUT-MIGRANTS, BY REGIONS: APRIL 1953 TO APRIL 1954 AND APRIL 1949 TO APRIL 1950

Region	In-migrants		Out-migrants	
	1953-1954	1949-1950	1953-1954	1949-1950
Northeast.....	364,000	255,860	408,000	391,155
North Central.....	827,000	515,245	654,000	569,165
South.....	682,000	688,380	1,083,000	574,110
West.....	671,000	470,095	399,000	395,150

RELATED REPORTS

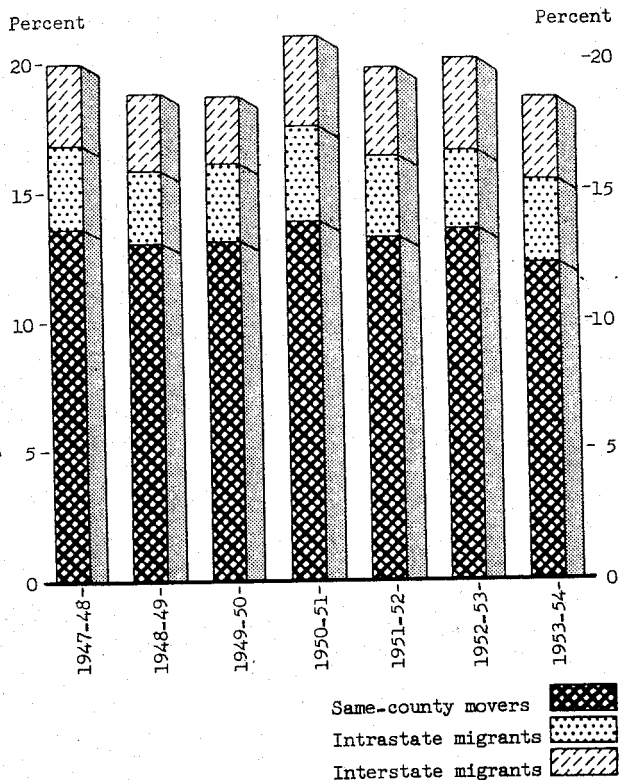
Statistics on the mobility status of the population 1 year old and over for recent years appear in the following reports in Series P-20:

- No. 49, "Mobility of the Population of the United States: April 1952 to April 1953."
- No. 47, "Mobility of the Population of the United States: April 1952."
- No. 39, "Mobility of the Population for the United States: April 1950 to April 1951."
- No. 36, "Internal Migration and Mobility in the United States: March 1949 to March 1950."

1950 Census.--Statistics on the mobility of the population for cities, counties, standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas, States, divisions, regions, and the United

States appear in Volume II of the 1950 Census of Population. Detailed statistics on mobility status by color and sex for States, divisions, regions, and the United States appear in 1950 Census of Population, Advance Reports, Series PC-14, No. 17. The special reports of the 1950 Census entitled "Characteristics by Size of Place," "Education," and "Institutional Population" present statistics on mobility status in relation to the main subject of the report.

MOVERS BY TYPE OF MOBILITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 1 YEAR OLD AND OVER, FOR THE UNITED STATES: APRIL 1947 TO APRIL 1954



DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population coverage.--The data for 1954 (covering the period April 1953 to April 1954) shown in this report relate primarily to the civilian population of the United States 1 year old and over. Approximately 822,000 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. Data from the 1950 Census (tables A and B) relate to the total population 1 year old and over, however.

Urban and rural residence.--The definition of urban and rural areas which was used in the April 1954 survey was the same as that used in the 1950 Census, but it differed substantially from that used in surveys and censuses before 1950. The territory classified as urban is the same as that in the 1950 Census.

Size of place.--The urban population is classified as living in urbanized areas or in urban places outside urbanized areas. According to the definition used in the 1950 Census and in the April 1954 Current Population Survey, the population in urbanized areas comprises all persons living in (a) cities of 50,000 inhabitants or more in 1940 or according to a special census taken between 1940 and 1950; and (b) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, surrounding these cities. Residents of urbanized areas were classified according to the size of the entire area rather than by the size of the place in which they lived. The remaining urban population is classified as living in the smaller urban places not in the urbanized areas.

Farm and nonfarm residence.--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. The method of determining farm and nonfarm residence in the April 1953 survey is the same as that used in the 1950 Census and in the April 1952, April 1951, and March 1950 Current Population Surveys but differs from that used in earlier surveys and censuses. Persons on "farms" who were paying cash rent for their house and yard only were classified as nonfarm; furthermore, persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as nonfarm.

Standard metropolitan area.--Except in New England, a standard metropolitan 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 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 areas have been defined on a town rather than county basis.

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 to persons 1 year old and over at the survey date.

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

In the classification 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 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 (intracounty) 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 (intercounty) 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.

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

Color.--The term "color" refers to the division of population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Employment status

Employed persons.--This category comprises those persons 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.--This category includes those persons 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.

Labor force.--This category comprises (a) the total of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above, 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.

Not in the labor force.--This category 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.

Major industry group and class of worker.--The data on industry and class of worker 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 industrial categories shown are largely major groups in the classification used in the 1950 Census of Population. The composition of the major groups in terms of detailed industries is shown in Volume II of the reports of the 1950 Census of Population.

The classification by class of worker consists of four categories which are defined as follows:

1. Private wage and salary workers.--Persons who work for a private employer for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay-in-kind, or at piece rates.
2. Government workers.--Persons who work for any government unit (Federal, State, or local), regardless of the activity carried on.
3. Self-employed workers.--Persons who work in their own business, profession, or trade, or operate a farm, for profit or fees.
4. Unpaid family workers.--Persons who work without pay on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

The estimates presented in this report are based on data obtained in connection with the monthly population sample survey of the Bureau of the Census. The statistics for April 1954 are based on a new sample design instituted in January 1954. This sample is spread over 230 sample areas comprising 453 counties and independent cities. A total of 24,000 to 26,000 dwelling units and other living quarters are designated for the sample at any time, and completed interviews are obtained each month from about 20,000 to 22,000 households. Of the remainder, about 500 to 1,000 are households for which information should be obtained but is not, and the rest are vacant households or those otherwise not to be enumerated for the survey. The data for all previous periods for which similar information was obtained were based on a different sample, which consisted of about the same number of units but which covered only 68 sample areas in 42 States and the District of Columbia.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. For the April 1954 figures shown in this report, the independent estimates used were based on statistics from the 1950 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces and separation records. For April 1954 and earlier years, the independent estimates were based on data of the 1940 Census of Population similarly adjusted to take account of the aging of the population, births, deaths, net immigration, and changes in the size of the Armed Forces.

Since the estimates are based on a sample they are subject to sampling variability. The following illustration, based upon rough computations from the new survey, indicates the order of magnitude of the sampling errors for some typical statistics in April 1954. An estimated 3,121,000 persons in rural-farm areas lived in different houses in April 1954 than in April 1953. This number is 14.9 percent of the total number of persons living in rural-farm areas in April 1954. The relative sampling error is about 7 percent of the estimate of 3,121,000. The sampling error of the estimate of 14.9 percent is roughly 1 percentage point. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the estimates from the sample differ from the results which would be obtained from a complete census by the sampling errors indicated for the above items. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the differences would be less than twice the specified sampling errors and about 99 out of 100 that they would be less than 2½ times the errors indicated.

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