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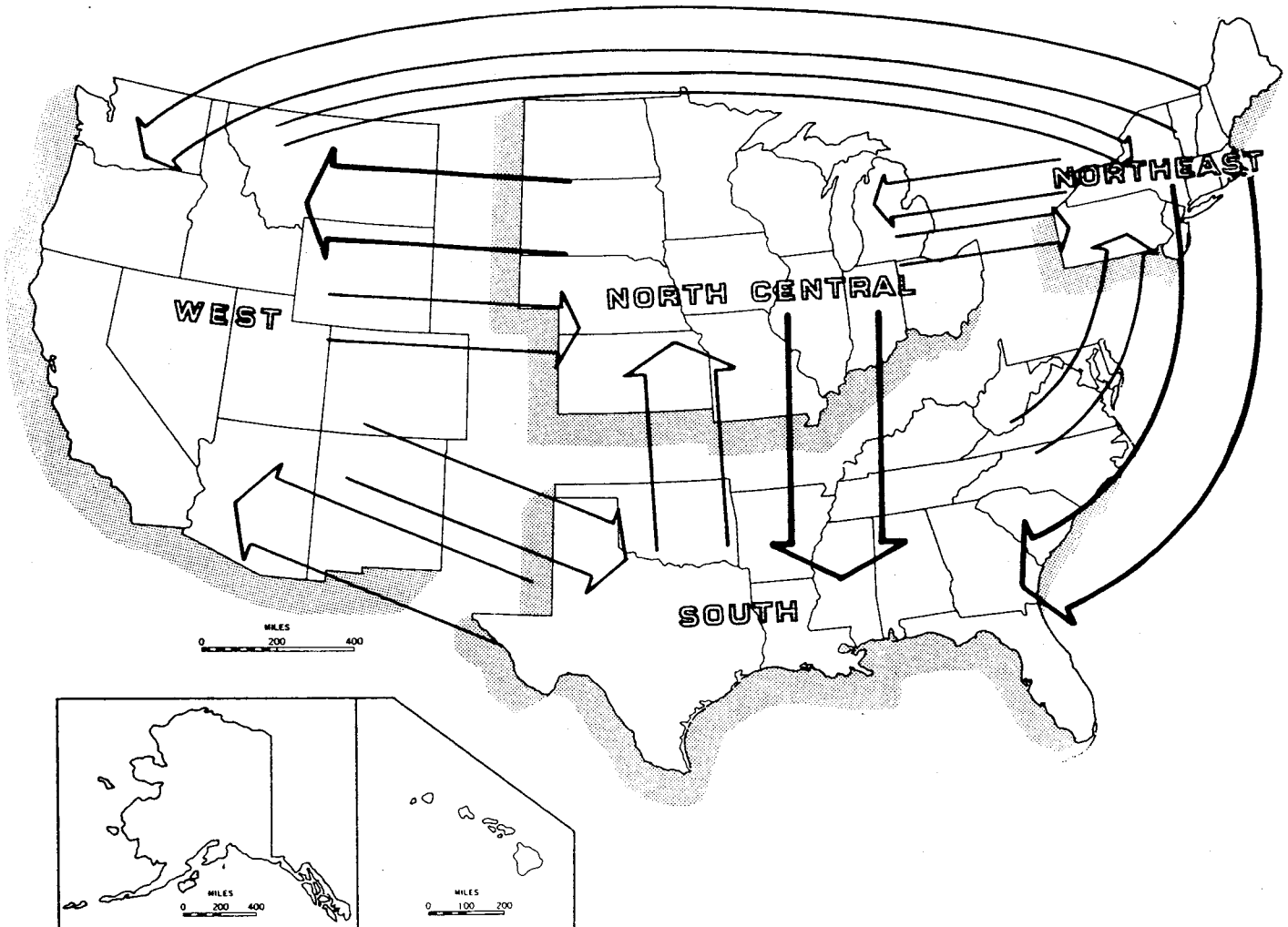
U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 320
Issued February 1978

Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1977

Region to Region Migration Flows for the United States: March 1975 to March 1977



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**Population
Characteristics**

Series P-20, No. 320
Issued February 1978

**Geographical Mobility:
March 1975 to March 1977**

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SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
- B Base less than 75,000.

TABLE FINDING GUIDE—Subjects by Type of Mobility and Table Number

Subject	Detailed mobility	General mobility	Mobility for SMSA's	Mobility for central cities of SMSA's	Regional mobility
GENERAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS					
Age:					
Single years of age.....		5			
Age groups.....	4	6, 13, 18, 24, 27	9, 11, 14, 16, 22, 28, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38	10, 12, 15, 17, 23, 30, 33	6, 7, 34, 36, 40, 41
Race.....	1, 35, 39	2, 3, 43	2, 3, 8, 25, 29, 34, 36, 37, 38, 43	26, 31, 42	2, 3, 7, 8, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42
Spanish origin.....	1		25, 29, 37, 38	26, 31	
Years of school completed.....		24	22, 25, 37, 38	23, 26	40, 41
Marital status.....		27	28, 32	33	
Households and household relationship..			8, 9	10	8
Families.....	35	13, 18, 21	11, 14, 16, 19, 34, 36, 37, 38	12, 15, 17, 20	34, 35, 36, 40, 41
By presence or ages of own children..		18, 21	14, 16, 19	15, 17, 20	
Unrelated individuals.....			36		36
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS					
Employment status.....		27	28, 29, 37, 38	30, 31	40, 41
Occupation.....			28, 29	30, 31	40, 41
Income in 1976:					
Persons.....			32, 37, 38	33	
Families.....		18	16	17	
Receipt of public assistance.....	35		34, 37, 38		34, 35
Above or below poverty level.....			36, 37, 38		36, 40, 41

Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1977

INTERREGIONAL MIGRATION OF BLACKS

According to estimates from the March 1977 Current Population Survey (CPS), the Northeast region had net outmigration of Blacks from March 1975 to March 1977. The survey asked respondents where they lived in March 1975, and the data indicated that during this 2-year period, 43,000 Blacks 2 years old and over moved to the Northeast and 147,000 moved from the region, giving it a net outmigration of 104,000 Blacks 2 years old and over.

From 1960 to 1970 and in most decades since the Civil War the Northeast had net immigration of Blacks; thus, the change to net outmigration since 1970 represents an alteration of a long-standing pattern of migration among Blacks.¹ This change in the Northeast's pattern of net migration of Blacks comes about as a result of both fewer Blacks moving to the region and more Blacks leaving the region.²

Like the Northeast, the North Central region has experienced changes in Black migration patterns in recent years. In the period from March 1975 to March 1977, as in 1970 to 1975, the number of Blacks moving to the North Central region was not significantly different from the number of Blacks moving from the region. This approximate equality in the number of Blacks moving to and from the region represents a substantial change since the 1960's, when the region had a large net immigration of Blacks.³

The South has also undergone alteration in net migration of Blacks since 1970. From March 1975 to March 1977 the number of Blacks moving from the South was not significantly different from the number moving to that region. The same basic pattern has characterized other migration intervals since 1970, but the approximate equality between Black migrants to and from the South represents a change from the 1960's, when the region had net outmigration of Blacks.⁴

It is perhaps necessary to emphasize that CPS data since 1970 do not allow one to conclude that the South has net

immigration of Blacks, at least according to the rules of statistical inference employed by the Census Bureau. Although the South is no longer experiencing the large volume of net outmigration of Blacks as it did in the 1960's, the survey data cannot demonstrate that the region has net immigration of Blacks, because the number of Blacks migrants to the South from 1970 to 1975 and from 1975 to 1977 was not significantly different from the number of Black migrants from the South. It is, however, analytically important that each successive survey since 1970 has shown the same pattern, suggesting that a larger sample might provide a statistically significant net immigration of Blacks to the South.

From March 1975 to March 1977, the West had net immigration of Blacks, just as it did in the 1960's and from 1970 to 1975. In the 1975 to 1977 period, 97,000 Blacks 2 years old and over moved to the West and 24,000 moved from the West, giving the region a net immigration of 73,000 Blacks 2 years old and over.

BLACK RETURN MIGRATION

Many of the Black migrants from the Northeast and to the South are probably returnees, that is, Blacks born in the South and returning to their region of birth. There are no data on return migration from the March 1977 survey, but return migration figured prominently in Black migration to the South from 1955 to 1960 and from 1965 to 1970. In both of those 5-year intervals Black returnees constituted about two-thirds of Blacks moving to the South.⁵ Whether this trend has continued is a question that will have to be investigated with data from the 1980 census.

A trend that was clear in the 1960's was a rise in the rate at which Southern-born Blacks returned to the South. The Black rate of return migration rose by over 40 percent between 1955 to 1960 and 1965 to 1970. The Black rate of return to the South rose from about 2.7 returnees per 100 former outmigrants from 1955 to 1960 to about 3.9 returnees per 100 former outmigrants from 1965 to 1970. Whether the Black rate of return migration to the South has

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Bicentennial Edition, Part 1*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 285, "Mobility of the Population of the United States: March 1970 to March 1975."* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975.

³ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Bicentennial Edition, Part 1*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Larry H. Long and Kristin A. Hansen, "Trends in Return Migration to the South." *Demography* 12 (November 1975) pp. 601-614.

continued to rise since 1970 cannot be directly demonstrated, but if two-thirds of Black migrants to the South since 1970 are returnees, then the Black rate of return migration would have risen to around 6.0 returnees per 100 former outmigrants from 1970 to 1975. Even if it rose to this level it would still be below the White rate of return to the South; from 1965 to 1970 White return migrants to the South numbered about 12.8 per 100 former outmigrants.⁶

In the past an important characteristic of Black return migration to the South was positive selectivity according to level of education. That is, Blacks who had been most likely to move back to the South were those with the highest level of education. Previous research found this pattern to exist from 1955 to 1960 as well as from 1965 to 1970.⁷

An important question for future investigation involves the readiness with which Northern-born Blacks move to the South or other regions to take advantage of expanding employment opportunities. A sizable proportion of the Black population now lives in States and metropolitan areas of the North where employment opportunities and income levels have generally not been rising as rapidly as in parts of the South and West. The degree to which differences in income and employment levels of Blacks and Whites converge may be related to the relative responsiveness of the two population groups to regional differences in income-earning opportunities.

INTERREGIONAL MIGRATION OF WHITES

From March 1975 to March 1977, the Northeast and North Central regions had net outmigration of Whites. About 618,000 Whites 2 years old and over moved to the Northeast, but 1,101,000 left, giving the region a net outmigration of 483,000. Whites moving to the North Central region numbered about 1,066,000, compared with an outmigration of 1,443,000, leaving that region with a net outmigration of 377,000.

In contrast to the Northeast and North Central regions, the South and West had net immigration of Whites 2 years old and over between March 1975 and March 1977. The South's net gain was about 436,000 and that for the West was 424,000. These and other figures cited above exclude migrants to the United States from abroad.

In contrast to the changes in Black interregional migration, the regional migration of Whites from 1975 to 1977 basically reflects patterns established in the 1960's. The Northeast and North Central regions had net outmigration of Whites from 1975 to 1977 just as they did in the 1960's. The South and West had net immigration of Whites from 1975 to 1977, just as in 1960 to 1970.⁸

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Larry H. Long and Kristin A. Hansen, "Selectivity of Black Return Migration to the South." *Rural Sociology* 42 (Fall 1977) pp. 317-331.

⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 460, "Preliminary Intercensal Estimates of States and Components of Population Change, 1960 to 1970." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971.

METROPOLITAN AND NONMETROPOLITAN MIGRATION

More persons moved from metropolitan areas than to them in the 2-year period from March 1975 to March 1977. Excluding movers from abroad, the number of movers from SMSA's exceeded the number of movers to SMSA's by 613,000. The central cities of SMSA's (as defined in 1970) had a net outmigration of 3,331,000 persons 2 years old and over from 1975 to 1977. The net immigration to the suburbs from 1975 to 1977 was 2,718,000 persons 2 years old and over.

The net outmigration experienced by SMSA's from 1975 to 1977 represents the continuation of a pattern observed earlier in this decade. It is a change from the 1960's, however, when the net outmigration experienced by many large cities was more than offset by the volume of net immigration to the suburbs.⁹

In the 1975-77 period, the 3,815,000 persons 2 years old and over moving out of SMSA's were equally likely to have come from the central cities as from the suburban balance of SMSA's. Among the 3,202,000 movers to SMSA's, those moving to the suburbs outnumbered those moving to the central cities by 2 to 1.

An important difference between Blacks and Whites in migration patterns concerns movement between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. Between March 1975 and March 1977, metropolitan areas in the aggregate had net outmigration of Whites. Among Blacks, however, the data indicate that the number of Blacks moving to metropolitan areas approximately equaled the number moving from metropolitan areas. These comparisons exclude movers from abroad and refer to SMSA's as defined in 1970.

INTERVAL LENGTH

The mobility questions that are used in the CPS do not measure number of moves during a given time period but estimate the number of persons who lived in a different house at the beginning of the period than at the survey date. In other words, the number of movers is estimated, not the number of moves. Persons who moved more than once are counted only once; and persons who moved out of their current residence but returned by the end of the period are not counted as movers at all. As a result, a count of the number of movers in a shorter period more nearly approximates the number of moves during that period than is measured in a longer interval which more nearly measures the percentage of the population that is affected by mobility.

The effect of repeat movers on short-interval mobility rates can be illustrated by comparing the 1-year mobility rate from the March 1976 CPS with the 2-year rate derived from

⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population and Housing: 1970, PHC(2)-1, General Demographic Trends for Metropolitan Areas, 1960 to 1970*, United States Summary. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971.

data collected in the 1977 survey. According to estimates of the 1976 survey, 17.1 percent of the 208,069,000 persons 1 year old and over were living in a different house in the United States 1 year earlier. By comparison, the present survey shows 26.5 percent of the 206,419,000 persons 2 years old and over were living in a different house in the United States on that date 2 years earlier. If none of the persons who moved in the first year of the 2-year period also moved in the second year, then we would expect the 2-year mobility rate to be twice the 1-year rate or approximately 34.2 percent—7.7 percentage points more than actually found. Therefore, we can conclude that nearly half (45 percent) of the movers in a 2-year period are repeat movers.¹⁰

MIGRATION UNIVERSE

The mobility data in this report are derived from the answers to a series of questions on residence 2 years before the survey date and the geographic location of the respondent's current residence. A facsimile of the questions on previous residence is shown below. These questions were asked for all members of the survey household who were 14 years old and over on the survey date. Previous residence for persons under 14

¹⁰ A more complete analysis of the complex relationships between mobility rates derived from intervals of different lengths, entitled "A Comparison of Migration Measures of Different Intervals," can be obtained from John F. Long or Celia G. Boertlein, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

years old was allocated based on the responses of their parents or other members of the household. (See the section on "Nonresponses and Allocations" for a further discussion of the allocation of mobility data for children and other persons for whom no response or only partial responses to the mobility questions were given.)

<p>54. Was . . . living in this house 2 years ago; that is, on March 1, 1975?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (Skip to 57) No <input type="checkbox"/> (Ask 55)</p>
<p>55. Where did . . . live on March 1, 1975?</p> <p>a. Name of State, foreign country, U.S. possession, etc. _____ ↘</p> <p>b. Name of county _____ ↘</p>
<p>56. Did . . . live inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name of city, town, etc. _____ ↘</p>

The universe sampled includes all civilian noninstitutional households and households headed by members of the Armed Forces living off base or with their families on base. (For a more detailed discussion of the sample selection and limitations of the sample and survey design, see the appendix section on "Source and Reliability of the Estimates.")

NOTE

In the past the Census Bureau has designated a head of household to serve as the central reference person for the collection and tabulation of data for individual members of the household (or family). However, recent social changes have resulted in a trend toward recognition of more equal status for all members of the household (or family), making the term "head" less relevant in the analysis of household and family data. As a result, the Bureau is currently developing new techniques of enumeration and data presentation which will eliminate the concept of "head." While much of the data in this report are based on the concept of "head," methodology for future Census Bureau reports will reflect a gradual movement away from this traditional practice.
