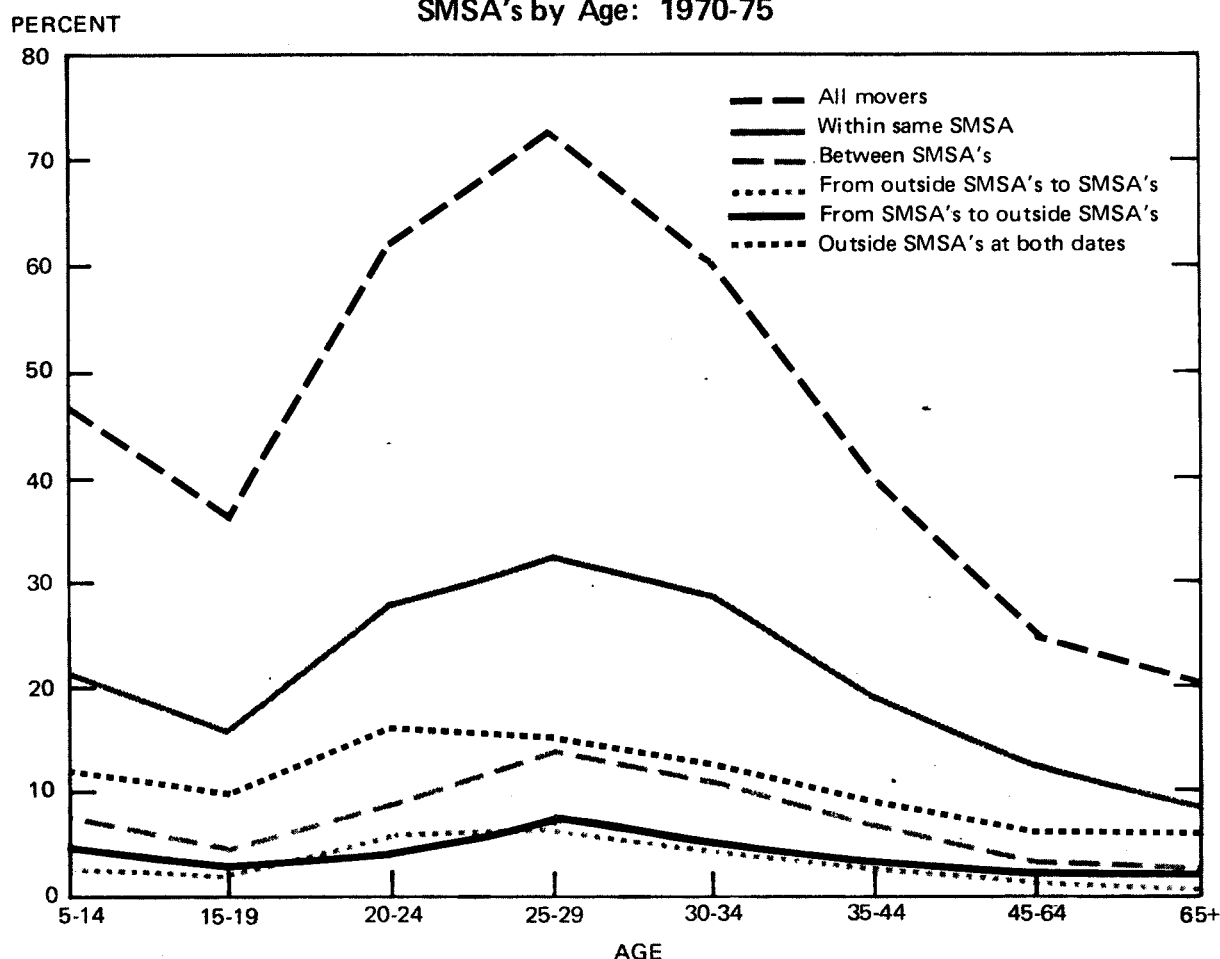


Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 285
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MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES MARCH 1970 TO MARCH 1975

Figure 1. Percent of Population Moving To, From, and Within
SMSA's by Age: 1970-75



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES MARCH 1970 TO MARCH 1975

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MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1970 TO MARCH 1975

Persons moving from metropolitan areas exceeded movers to metropolitan areas between March 1970 and March 1975, according to estimates of the Current Population Survey. The data from this survey indicate that 6,721,000 persons 5 years old and over moved out of metropolitan areas of the United States and 5,127,000 moved into metropolitan areas, resulting in a net migration loss from metropolitan to nonmetropolitan areas of 1,594,000.

This is an apparent reversal of the migration patterns of the previous 5-year period. For the 1965-70 period, data from the 1970 census¹ show a net immigration to metropolitan areas of 352,133 persons 5 years old and over (see table A). These data for metropolitan areas refer to Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) as they were defined at the time of the 1970 census, and do not include new SMSA's which have been created since the 1970 census or counties added to existing SMSA's.

Table A. Migration for Metropolitan Areas:
1965-70 and 1970-75

Migration	1965-70	1970-75
Net migration.....	+352,133	-1,594,000
Immigration.....	+5,809,415	+5,127,000
Outmigration.....	-5,457,282	-6,721,000

Source: 1965-70 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-2C, "Mobility for Metropolitan Areas," tables 1-7.

The data do not indicate a total population loss to metropolitan areas or a decline in urbanization. The above figures refer only to internal migration and do not include movement from abroad. The net outmigration from metropolitan areas, in combination with changes in rates of natural increase and immigration, has brought about a lower rate of metropolitan growth in recent

years,² but not a reversal of the long-standing trend toward increasing urbanization of the population of the United States. Even during the 1960's, migration from nonmetropolitan areas accounted for a relatively small amount of population change in metropolitan areas. Between 1960 and 1970 only about one-ninth of total population growth in metropolitan areas was the result of net immigration from nonmetropolitan parts of the United States.³

A large part of the net movement from metropolitan areas represents continued urban development around the fringes of metropolitan areas.⁴ During the 1960's employment in the part of metropolitan areas outside the central cities increased faster than population.⁵ As jobs increased in these areas, workers could more easily commute from communities just beyond metropolitan boundaries. Future residence changes in and around metropolitan areas are likely to reflect growth policies of individual municipalities and available means of commuting.

CITIES AND SUBURBS

In the 5-year period from March 1970 to March 1975, central cities of metropolitan areas continued to experience net outmigration, just as they had in the

²For rates of population change in SMSA's for 1950-60 and 1960-70, see table 32 in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Vol. I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary-Section 1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972. For estimated population change in SMSA's for 1970-73, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 537, "Estimates of the Population of Metropolitan Areas, 1972 and 1973, and Components of Change, Since 1970." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974. (Net migration figures in this report include movement from abroad by U.S. citizens and immigration.)

³U.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.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971. Table 7.

⁴About 5/8 of the total net immigration to nonmetropolitan counties is to counties adjacent to metropolitan areas. See Calvin L. Beale, "The Revival of Population Growth in Nonmetropolitan America," ERS-605. Washington, D.C.: Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 1975.

⁵U.S. Bureau of the Census, Special Economic Reports, Series ES20(72)-1, "Employment and Population Changes--Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Central Cities." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972. Table A.

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-2C, "Mobility for Metropolitan Areas." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973. Tables 1-7.

1960's.⁶ Central cities lost 13,005,000 persons 5 years old and over, mostly to suburban jurisdictions, and only gained 5,987,000 persons, for a net loss of 7,018,000 (shown in table B). The balances of SMSA's (the mostly suburban part of metropolitan areas outside the central cities) continued to experience net immigration during the 1970-75 period. These areas gained 12,732,000 persons from central cities and nonmetropolitan areas and lost 7,309,000 persons for a net gain of 5,423,000. Data for central cities relate to city boundaries existing at the time of the 1970 census.

Table B. Migration for Cities and Suburbs: 1970-75
(Numbers in thousands)

Migration	Central cities	Balances of SMSA's	Outside SMSA's
Net migration....	-7,018	+5,423	+1,595
Immigration....	+5,987	+12,732	+6,721
From central cities.....	(X)	+9,765	+3,240
From balances of SMSA's....	+3,828	(X)	+3,481
From outside SMSA's.....	+2,159	+2,967	(X)
Outmigration...	-13,005	-7,309	-5,126
To central cities.....	(X)	-3,828	-2,159
To balances of SMSA's...	-9,765	(X)	-2,967
To outside SMSA's.....	-3,240	-3,481	(X)

X Not applicable.

Persons moving to central cities were slightly younger than persons moving from central cities. In the 1970-75 period the median age of immigrants to central cities was 25.1 years, compared with a median age of 27.6 years among outmigrants.

Blacks were relatively more numerous in the migration stream to central cities than in the stream from central cities. In the 1970-75 period, blacks constituted 12.3 percent of immigrants (5 years old and over) to central cities and 7.5 percent of outmigrants. A continuation of this migration pattern would contribute to

raising the percent black in central cities. Differences in rates of natural increase also contribute to altering the percent black.⁷

REGIONAL PATTERNS

For the five years following 1970, regional migration followed a pattern very similar to the 1965-70 period.⁸ The South and the West had net immigration and the Northeast and North Central regions had net outmigration of persons 5 years old and over in each of the two periods.

During the latter half of the 1950-60 decade the South began to change from its long-standing pattern of net outmigration to net immigration.⁹ This change was brought about as more whites moved to the region than moved from it between 1955 and 1960. Since 1960 the South has continued to experience net immigration of whites. The patterns for 1965-70 and 1970-75 are illustrated in the figure below.

Increased return migration played an important role in the South's changeover to net immigration in the 1960's, but somewhat more important numerically were decreased outmigration of native southerners and increased immigration of persons not born in the South.¹⁰ The rate of return movement increased from about 8.5 returnees per 100 former outmigrants in the 1955-60 period to slightly more than 10 returnees per 100 former outmigrants in the 1965-70 period.¹¹ Data from the March 1975 survey do not allow the separate identification of each of these factors.

During the 1960's the traditional pattern of black outmigration from the South continued. In the 1965-70 period the ratio of black outmigrants to black immigrants was 2.339 for the South, indicating that black outmigrants were about 2 1/3 times as numerous as black immigrants to the South. The ratio of black outmigrants to immigrants was less in the 1970-75 period (0.9536), which may indicate a smaller difference between the number of black immigrants and outmigrants. But the sample size is not large enough to reveal a statistically significant difference between the number of immigrants and the number of outmigrants.

⁷For most of the Nation's largest cities, rises in the percent black in the 1950's and 1960's were primarily the result of white outmigration, rather than black immigration. See Larry H. Long, "How the Racial Composition of Cities Changes," *Land Economics*, August 1975.

⁸U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1970, Vol. I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, United States Summary-Section 2*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973. Table 274.

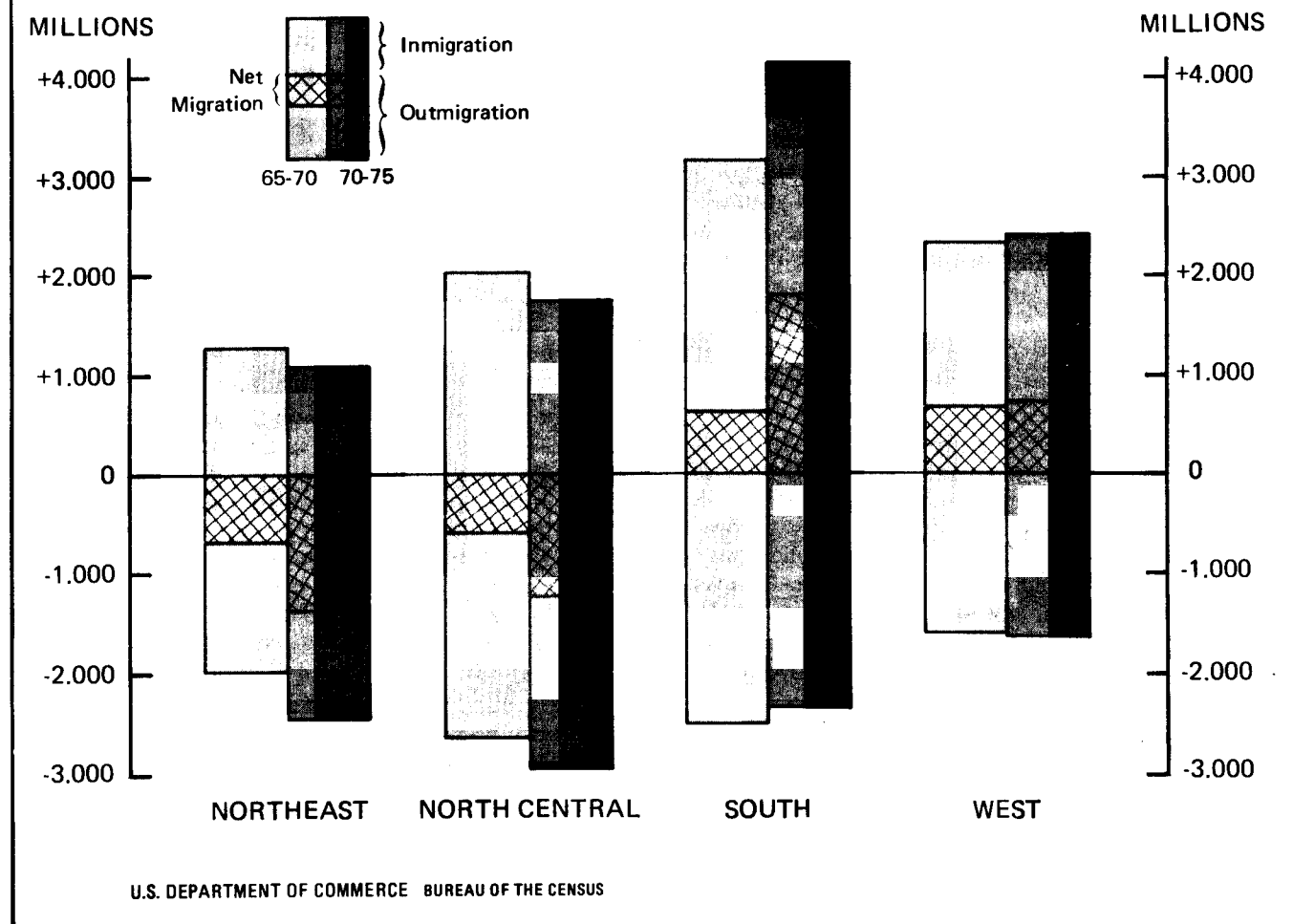
⁹This changeover is documented in Larry H. Long and Kristin A. Hansen, "Trends in Return Migration to the South," *Demography*, November 1975.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

⁶U.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.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971. Tables 11 and 11A.

Figure 2. Immigration, Outmigration, and Net Migration for Regions:
1965-70 and 1970-75



The black rate of return migration to the South, however, was increasing in the 1960's. The black rate of return to the South rose from about 2.7 returnees per 100 former outmigrants in 1955-60 to about 3.9 returnees per 100 former outmigrants in 1965-70.¹² As mentioned, data from the 1975 survey do not identify returnees from other immigrants to the South, but we can note that the number of total black immigrants to the South was greater in 1970-75 than in 1965-70.

In spite of these increases, the black rate of return migration to the South in 1965-70 was only about 30 percent as large as the white rate of return, and it is highly unlikely that in the period since 1970 the black rate of return to the South has risen to the white rate of return.¹³

MIGRATION DIFFERENTIALS

Persons engaging in the different forms of residential mobility typically differ from persons who do not move and may, as a result, have an impact on areas of origin and destination greater than their numbers would imply. Highest mobility rates are usually found among persons in their twenties, reflecting the establishment of new households by young adults who have just finished school, recently married, or newly entered the labor force. Although 41.3 percent of all persons 5 years old and over moved during the 5-year period, the rate for persons 25 to 29 years was 72.0 percent. Persons in their early twenties and early thirties also had high mobility rates (both about 60 percent). Children 5 to 14 years had higher mobility rates (reflecting the younger age of their parents) than persons 15 to 19 years old.

Migration patterns differ by race as well, with blacks being more likely to change residence than whites (45.7

¹²Ibid.

¹³Ibid.

and 40.7 percent, respectively). But blacks tend to move shorter distances than whites; in the 1970-75 period 35.7 percent of blacks 5 years and over moved within the same county as compared with only 22.7 percent of whites. Whites, however, have higher rates of inter-county and interstate migration than blacks.

Educational attainment also influences the likelihood of migration. College graduates are more likely to move between counties or States than high school graduates who, in turn, migrate more often than persons with only a grade school education. Among persons 18 years old and over, 29.5 percent of those with 4 or more year of college moved to a different county between March 1970 and March 1975, compared with 16.1 percent of those who have completed only 4 years of high school and 9.0 percent of those with only 8 years of education or less.

The presence and ages of own children in a family influence the likelihood of moving. Among married men who were 25 to 34 years old and living with their wives at the survey date, those with no own children under 18 were more residentially mobile than those with own children under 18. Also, the husband-wife families (head 25 to 54 years) whose children were all under six years old were more residentially mobile than those with children over six years. Thus, the presence of school-age children acts to reduce the geographic mobility of these families.

The data in this report are for individuals and, therefore, do not relate directly to the migration of families. For many purposes, the mobility of family heads can be used as an adequate indication of the

mobility of families because usually family members have the same mobility status as the head. However, some families were formed during the migration interval, and others were dissolved. Still other families experienced change in composition as a result of persons joining the family or leaving it.

RELATED REPORTS

Statistics on the mobility of the population have been collected annually in the Current Population Survey since 1948. Tables similar to those in this report were published for the period 1970-74 in Series P-20, No. 273 and for the period 1970-73 in Series P-20, No. 262. Figures for 1970-74 were issued in Series P-20, No. 235, and similar statistics were published in this series each year beginning with the report for 1947-48.

Statistics on geographic 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 1970 Census of Population (based on State of birth or residence 5 years before the census). Detailed statistics on mobility status by race and sex for State economic areas, SMSA's, States, divisions, regions, and the United States appear in Volume II, Subject Reports: PC(2)-2A, State of Birth; PC(2)-2B, Mobility for States and the Nation; PC(2)-2C, Mobility for Metropolitan Areas; PC(2)-2D, Lifetime and Recent Migration; PC(2)-2E, Migration Between State Economic Areas; and PC(2)-7E, Occupation and Residence in 1965. Some other subject reports of the 1970 census present statistics on mobility status in relation to the main subject of the report.