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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

INTERNAL MIGRATION

1935 TO 1940

Economic Characteristics of Migrants

Prepared under the supervision of

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

REPORTS ON POPULATION

Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
- II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
- III The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income, by States.
- IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

REPORTS ON HOUSING

Volume

- I Data for Small Areas, by States.
Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
- II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
- III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
- IV Mortgages on Owner-Occupied Nonfarm Homes, by States.

SPECIAL REPORTS

[Individual reports, grouped according to subject. Reports denoted by an asterisk (*) are based on sample statistics]

Statistics for Census Tracts (Including Housing Data):

A report for each of 60 tracted cities and suburbs.

Unincorporated Communities.

Institutional Population, 14 Years Old and Over.

*Families (Including Housing Data):

General Characteristics.

Tenure and Rent.

Income and Rent.

Characteristics of Rural-Farm Families.

Types of Families.

Size of Family and Age of Head.

Employment Status.

Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939.

*Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910:

Fertility for States and Large Cities.

Standardized Fertility Rates and Reproduction Rates.

Women by Number of Children Under 5 Years Old.

Women by Number of Children Ever Born.

State of Birth of the Native Population.

Internal Migration, 1935 to 1940:

Color and Sex of Migrants.

Age of Migrants.

Economic Characteristics of Migrants.

Characteristics of the Nonwhite Population by Race.

*Nativity and Parentage of the White Population:

General Characteristics.

Country of Origin of the Foreign Stock.

Mother Tongue.

*The Labor Force (Sample Statistics):

Employment and Personal Characteristics.

Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force.

Employment and Family Characteristics of Women.

Wage or Salary Income in 1939.

Education, Occupation, and Household Relationship

of Males 18 to 44 Years Old.

Industrial Characteristics.

Occupational Characteristics.

Usual Occupation.

*Education:

Educational Attainment of Children by Rental Value of Home.

Comparative Occupation Statistics for the United States, 1870 to 1940.

Estimates of Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment in the United States, 1940 and 1930.

Housing—Characteristics by Type of Structure.

Housing—Index of Reports.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., March 20, 1946.

SIR:

I transmit herewith a report on the internal migration of the population between 1935 and 1940, based on data from the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population. This census was taken in April, 1940, under the act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, approved June 18, 1929.

This is the third of a series of reports on migration within continental United States. This series represents the first census statistics on this subject that have been collected. This report presents statistics on internal migration for persons 14 years old and over, by employment status and by major occupation group for employed workers. The statistics presented here are designed for analyses relating to the mobility of labor. Statistics on social characteristics of migrants will be presented in a later report.

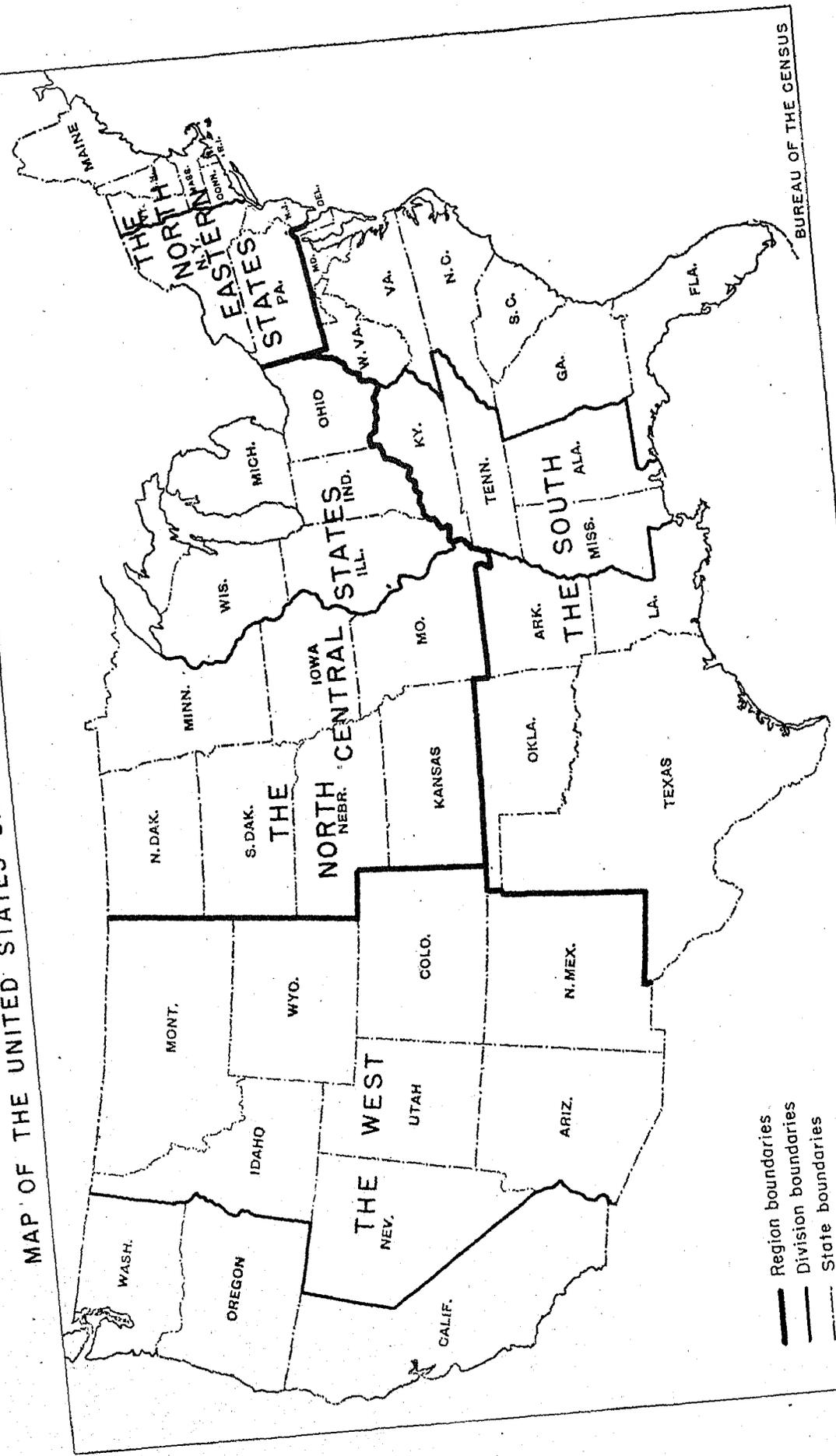
This report was prepared by Joel Williams and Robert J. Milliken, Population Analysts, under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief, Population Division, Howard G. Brunsman, Assistant Chief, and Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., Chief of General Population Statistics.

Respectfully,

J. C. CAPT,
Director of the Census.

HON. HENRY A. WALLACE,
Secretary of Commerce.

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



Region boundaries
 Division boundaries
 State boundaries

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This is the third of the series of reports on internal migration in the United States between 1935 and 1940, based on the replies to the question, "In what place did this person live on April 1, 1935?", which formed a part of the Population schedule of the 1940 census, taken as of April 1, 1940. In this report the data on internal migration for persons 14 years old and over are classified by employment status and by major occupation group for employed workers. Practically all of the data in this report are presented separately for males and females.

The statistics presented here are designed for analyses relating to the mobility of labor. They show the number of workers who migrated during a period of extensive unemployment, the relative proportions of migrants in different occupational groups, the differential rates of unemployment among migrants and nonmigrants, and the impact of migration upon the labor force in different regions, States, urban and rural areas, and principal cities.

The migration data are based on a cross-classification of place of residence in 1935 with place of residence in 1940. The classification yields direct information on in-migration and out-migration of persons in the labor force for a given area, and gives an approximate measure of the net gain or loss in the labor force of the area through migration between 1935 and 1940. The data in this report do not, of course, indicate all the different moves that were made during the five-year period nor the whole number who moved into or out of an area during the period, since some of those who moved may have returned or moved to still another area before the census date or may have died or gone to foreign countries.

Related reports.—In the first report of the series on internal migration, entitled "Color and Sex of Migrants," a complete cross-classification of migrants by place of residence in 1940 in combination with place of residence in 1935 is presented for States, urban and rural parts of States, and cities of 100,000 or more. Migrants from each area in 1935 to each area in 1940 are further classified by color and sex. The second report gives data by age, similar to those presented here by employment status and occupation. An additional report of this series is in preparation, which will present data on social characteristics of migrants, including nativity, citizenship, relationship to head of household, and education.

Statistics on internal migration for heads of families are presented in the series of 1940 census reports on characteristics of families. Statistics on internal migration in relation to fertility for women of child-bearing age are presented in the series of 1940 census publications on differential fertility.

Availability of unpublished data.—Because of the limitations of space it is not possible to present by employment status and occupation the complete cross-classification of place of residence in 1940 with place of residence in 1935. The data were tabulated, however, for all area combinations shown in the first report on internal migration, and any specific combinations that are desired can be made available for the cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for such unpublished statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., will receive a prompt reply which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

MIGRATION STATUS

Migration status is expressed in terms of three major categories: Migrant, nonmigrant, and immigrant. These categories are based on the relation between the reported place of residence in 1935 and the residence in 1940. A fourth, residual, classification, "Migration status not reported," includes the relatively small number of persons for whom place of residence in 1935 was not reported.

Migrants.—Migrants are those persons who lived in 1935 in a county (or quasi county) different from the one in which they were living in 1940. In this classification, a city which had 100,000 inhabitants or more in 1930 is treated as one quasi county, and the remainder of its county as another. Thus, migrants comprise: (a) Those living in one county in 1935 and in another county in 1940; (b) those living in 1940 in a city of 100,000 or more but living elsewhere in the same county in 1935; and (c) those living in 1935 in a city of 100,000 or more but living elsewhere in the same county in 1940.¹

Nonmigrants.—Nonmigrants are those persons who lived in the same county (or quasi county) in 1935 as in 1940.

Immigrants.—"Immigrants," as the term is used in these migration reports, are persons living in continental United States in 1940 who reported that their place of residence in 1935 was outside this area, that is, in an outlying territory or possession of the United States or in a foreign country. Immigrants are thus distinguished from migrants, who are persons who moved from one place (county) to another within continental United States.

AREAS

Urban and rural areas.—Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is, in general, that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population.

For residence in 1935, areas are classified as urban or rural in accordance with their classification in the 1930 census. For residence in 1940, they are classified in accordance with their classification in the 1940 census.

Rural, no report on farm or nonfarm residence; no report on urban-rural residence.—There are two groups of persons for whom sufficient information was returned to establish them as migrants but not enough to determine their exact class of residence in 1935. The group labeled "Rural, no report on farm or nonfarm residence" consists of migrants who reported rural residence in 1935, but did not specify whether or not they lived on a farm on that date. The group labeled "No report on urban-rural residence" includes those persons who did not live in the same county in 1935 as in 1940 but for whom information was not sufficient to establish whether their 1935 residence was in an urban or a rural area.

¹ Much of the migration to or from cities of 100,000 or more was from or to the suburban areas surrounding these metropolitan centers.

INTERNAL MIGRATION, 1935 TO 1940

Statistics for 1935 and 1940 for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more.—In the presentation of data on place of residence in 1940, cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more are those which were of this size in 1940; but in the presentation of data on place of residence in 1935, they are those which were of this size in 1930. (This classification was necessary because at the time the migration codes were set up, the 1940 population of cities was not known.) Hence for El Paso, Texas, Evansville, Indiana, and Lynn, Massachusetts, data are presented in table 17 only for out-migrants, who were resident in these cities in 1935. Conversely, for Charlotte, North Carolina, and Sacramento, California, data are shown only for in-migrants and for the population resident in these cities in 1940.

TYPE OF MIGRATION

"Type of migration" has been used in the tables of this report to denote a classification of migrants into three categories based on the geographic relationship between the State of residence in 1935 and the State of residence in 1940. These three categories are: (a) Migrants within a State, (b) migrants between contiguous States, and (c) migrants between noncontiguous States. The classification by type of migration is designed in part as a rough indication of the distance traveled in the process of migration. In addition, the distinction between interstate and intrastate migrants is important in connection with problems of coverage of State unemployment compensation systems and other State programs affecting workers who move across State lines.

Migrants within a State.—The category "migrants within a state" comprises migrants who moved from one county (or quasi county) to another within the same State. In the tables presenting statistics for cities of 100,000 or more, migrants within a State are designated as migrants to or from the "balance of State."

Migrants between contiguous States; migrants between non-contiguous States.—"Migrants between contiguous States" are, in general, migrants who crossed only one State line, that is, whose place of 1935 residence was in a State contiguous to their State of residence in 1940. "Migrants between noncontiguous States," on the other hand, moved across at least one intervening State, that is, across more than one State line. The place of residence in 1935 of migrants between noncontiguous States was in a State which was not contiguous to their State of residence in 1940. States have been defined as contiguous if their boundaries touch at any point. Table 15 shows, for each State, the number of in-migrants from and out-migrants to contiguous States.

The classification of the labor force by migration status and type of migration is summarized for the United States in table 1.

Table 1.—POPULATION 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY MIGRATION STATUS, TYPE OF MIGRATION, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940

MIGRATION STATUS AND TYPE OF MIGRATION	NUMBER			PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total labor force	52,789,499	39,944,240	12,845,259	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nonmigrants	44,929,168	34,011,522	10,917,646	85.1	85.1	85.0
Migrants	7,281,507	5,485,314	1,778,193	13.8	13.7	13.8
Within a State	4,079,456	3,070,940	1,008,516	7.7	7.7	7.9
Between contiguous States ..	1,500,795	1,133,826	366,967	2.8	2.8	2.9
Between noncontiguous States	1,681,258	1,278,548	402,710	3.2	3.2	3.1
Immigrants	188,346	136,250	52,116	0.4	0.3	0.4
Migration status not reported	410,478	313,174	97,304	0.8	0.8	0.8

INTERREGIONAL, INTERDIVISIONAL, AND URBAN-RURAL MIGRATION

In tables 8 and 10, a cross-classification of region of residence in 1940 by region of residence in 1935, by urban-rural residence, is presented for the population 14 years old and over by employment status and by major occupation group for employed workers. Tables 12 and 14 present similar information for divisions but without an urban-rural classification of residence. These tables may be read horizontally to obtain data on the 1935 residence of in-migrants to the areas of 1940 residence, or vertically to obtain data on the 1940 residence of out-migrants from the areas of 1935 residence. In those cases where the area of residence in 1935 is the same as the area of residence in 1940, the number represents migrants from one point to another within the region or division.

The data on migration of the labor force between regions are summarized in table II.

Table II.—REGION OF RESIDENCE IN 1940 OF MIGRANTS IN THE LABOR FORCE BY REGION OF RESIDENCE IN 1935

REGION OF RESIDENCE IN 1940	United States, 1935	REGION OF RESIDENCE IN 1935			
		The Northeastern States	The North Central States	The South	The West
Total migrants in labor force	7,281,507	1,338,815	2,335,707	2,527,840	1,059,347
The Northeastern States	1,278,268	1,088,347	79,114	108,401	22,408
The North Central States	2,088,691	80,794	1,764,067	185,591	58,259
The South	2,403,558	134,099	167,499	2,048,040	53,918
The West	1,492,992	55,573	325,027	167,608	924,784

Statistics on the employment status and occupations of migrants between urban and rural areas and between farm and non-farm areas are shown in the detailed tables which present cross-classifications of urban-rural residence in 1935 and 1940. The tables give information not only for the United States as a whole but also for the urban-rural subdivisions of each region and of each State.

The data on urban-rural and farm-nonfarm migration of the labor force for the United States are summarized in table III.

Table III.—URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENCE IN 1940 OF MIGRANTS IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENCE IN 1935, FOR THE UNITED STATES

PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN 1940	United States, 1935	PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN 1935				
		Urban	Rural-nonfarm	Rural-farm	Rural, no report on farm or nonfarm	No report on urban-rural
Total migrants in labor force	7,281,507	4,209,190	1,374,866	1,310,152	282,746	84,531
Urban	4,155,994	2,860,048	740,578	401,560	110,468	53,350
Rural-nonfarm	1,910,370	1,035,332	485,104	277,987	85,492	20,475
Rural-farm	1,195,143	323,810	141,204	630,635	88,788	10,708
PERCENT BY RESIDENCE IN 1935						
Total migrants in labor force	100.0	58.0	18.9	18.0	3.9	1.2
Urban	100.0	68.6	17.8	9.7	2.7	1.3
Rural-nonfarm	100.0	54.2	25.8	14.6	4.4	1.1
Rural-farm	100.0	27.1	11.8	52.8	7.4	0.9

IN-MIGRANTS AND OUT-MIGRANTS

The terms "in-migrants" and "out-migrants" have been used in the reports on internal migration with reference to migrants into or out of particular areas. In-migrants to an area are migrants who moved into that area from elsewhere in the United

States between 1935 and 1940 and were still living there in 1940. The term "in-migrants" should not be confused with the term "immigrants," previously defined. Out-migrants from an area are migrants who were living in the area in 1935 and moved out to some other place in the United States where they were living in 1940. In-migrants and out-migrants for any area exclude migrants within the area. Thus, in-migrants and out-migrants for a particular region, division, or State do not include migrants who moved from one county (or larger intermediate subdivision) to another within the specified area. In-migrants and out-migrants to or from a city of 100,000 or more include migrants from or to the balance of the State in which the city is located as well as migrants from or to other States.

In table 15, which presents data for States, urban and rural, statistics are shown separately for migrants within the State, in-migrants from other States, and out-migrants to other States. To obtain the total number of in-migrants to or out-migrants from an urban or rural part of a State, the figures on migrants from or to other parts of the same State should be added to the figures on in-migrants or out-migrants from or to other States.

The number of out-migrants from cities of 100,000 or more and from the urban parts of States is undoubtedly overstated at the expense of the rural areas. This overstatement results from a tendency of migrants from the suburbs of an urban place or from residences on RFD routes out of the urban place to give the urban place as their former residence. This is particularly true of migrants who had moved long distances. Migrants from small satellite cities of a metropolis to an area distant from the metropolitan district often give the metropolis as their previous residence, since the name of their actual former residence would not usually be familiar in this new locality and might require further explanation. The number of out-migrants from rural areas, particularly from rural-nonfarm areas adjacent to cities, is correspondingly understated because of the factors mentioned above. A similar bias does not occur in the classification of in-migrants by 1940 place of residence since the 1940 place of residence is based on the classification of the place at which the person was enumerated.

In the interpretation of the data for in-migrants and out-migrants classified by employment status and occupational groups, it is important to remember that these classifications refer to employment and occupation at the time of the 1940 census and not at the time of migration or in 1935. The data should not, therefore, be interpreted as measures of the effects of migration upon the numbers of employed and unemployed persons in various areas nor upon employment in various occupational groups. In particular, the figures for in-migrants and out-migrants classified as seeking work or on public emergency work do not represent additions to and subtractions from the number of unemployed persons in the area in question, because these persons were not necessarily unemployed when they migrated. Likewise, migrants employed in a particular occupational group at the time of the census may have been employed in a different occupational group, or unemployed or not in the labor force, before they migrated. In fact, shifts in employment status or occupation are especially likely to be made at the time of migration. The interpretation of the labor force totals for in-migrants and out-migrants is also affected to some extent by this consideration, since some of the migrants who were in the labor force at the time of the census were not in the labor force before they migrated, and vice versa. The numbers of in-migrants and out-migrants in the labor force at the time of the census, however, can be used as valid approximations to the additions to and subtractions from the labor force of a given area, due to migration, because it may be presumed in most cases that those

migrants who shifted their labor force status between 1935 and 1940 would have done so even if they had not migrated.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Labor force classification.—In the classification by employment status, persons 14 years old and over are classified on the basis of their activity during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, into two large groups: (a) Persons in the labor force, including those at work for pay or profit or at unpaid family work; those with a job or business from which they were temporarily absent; those on public emergency work; and those seeking work; and (b) persons not in the labor force. The latter group includes persons reported as engaged in own home housework, in school, or unable to work; seasonal workers for whom the census week fell in an off-season, and who were not seeking work; others not employed, nor on public emergency work, nor seeking work; all inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy, regardless of their activity during the census week; and persons for whom employment status was not reported.

Employment status categories.—Persons in the labor force are further classified in this report into three employment status subdivisions: Employed, on public emergency work, and seeking work. The last two of these categories, when combined, constitute the "unemployed." The various employment status subdivisions of the labor force are defined below:

Employed.—The group classified as employed includes two subgroups: (a) "At work"—persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or who assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and (b) "With a job but not at work"—persons not actually at work and not seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or lay-off not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. The group "Employed" includes not only employees but also proprietors, farmers, other self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers.

On public emergency work.—This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Seeking work.—This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week.

Summary data on migration status of the population 14 years old and over by employment status and sex are presented in table IV.

Misclassification of persons on public emergency work.—In the interpretation of the data for persons on public emergency work, allowance must be made for the misclassification in the census returns of considerable numbers of public emergency workers. The number of persons reported in the census as on public emergency work in the United States was 2,529,606, whereas the number recorded on the pay rolls of the Federal emergency