

11-1-1965

Interstate migration of the Mississippi population, 1960

George L. Wilber

Tommy W. Rogers

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/mafes-bulletins>

Recommended Citation

Wilber, George L. and Rogers, Tommy W., "Interstate migration of the Mississippi population, 1960" (1965). *Bulletins*. 74.

<https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/mafes-bulletins/74>

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bulletins by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact jshedd@library.msstate.edu.

Interstate Migration

of the

Mississippi Population

1960

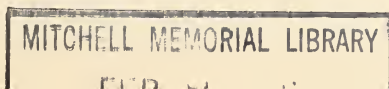
By GEORGE L. WILBER AND TOMMY W. ROGERS

Mississippi State University

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

HENRY LEVECK, Director

STATE COLLEGE



MISSISSIPPI

Table 1. Interstate migration of the Mississippi population by race, 1890-1960.

	Total			White			Non-White		
	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Difference	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Difference	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Difference
1880	259,231	193,714	65,517	117,192	120,006	- 2,814	142,039	73,708	68,331
1890	210,172	224,678	- 14,506	94,078	142,334	- 48,256	116,032	83,344	32,688
1900	215,109	286,010	- 70,901	99,746	178,945	- 79,199	115,363	107,065	8,298
1910	218,715	350,048	-131,333	112,279	217,173	-104,894	106,436	132,875	- 26,439
1920	183,322	491,948	-308,626	111,921	281,369	-169,448	71,401	210,579	-139,178
1930	206,781	609,636	-403,155	137,644	320,790	-183,146	69,137	288,346	-219,209
1950	225,900	947,275	-721,375	178,940	442,545	-263,805	46,960	504,730	-457,770
1960	266,875	1,227,371	-960,496	226,157	565,123	-338,966	40,718	662,248	-621,530

Interstate Migration of the Mississippi Population, 1960

By GEORGE L. WILBER AND TOMMY W. ROGERS

Introduction

Three components—births, deaths, and migration—determine population change. By experience and tradition citizens of the United States have moved freely across state lines. This freedom of movement has played a tremendously important part in the economic, social and political development of the country. Internal migration has affected all institutions, and is a major element in determining the composition of an area's population.

Information on the state of birth of the population has been gathered at each census since 1850. Although these figures reflect the migration of persons who have moved from one state to another and are, on the date of the census, living in states other than those in which they were born, they do not indicate the total number of persons who have moved from the state in which they were born. Some died before the census was taken and others returned to the state in which they were born. The statistics reflect both the direction and intensity of interstate migration patterns, but it should be remembered that they indicate only the net result of migration at the time of enumeration, and are not measures of all migratory movement.

The purpose of this paper is to survey the interstate migration trends of the Mississippi population with respect to out-migration and in-migration patterns on the basis of state-of-birth statistics.¹

Long-Term Out-Migration

Table 1 shows the interstate migration of the Mississippi population at census intervals, by race, from 1880 to 1960.

In 1880 there were 259,231 persons living in Mississippi who were born in other states. This figure was 65,517 more than the 193,714 persons born in Mississippi who were living in other states.

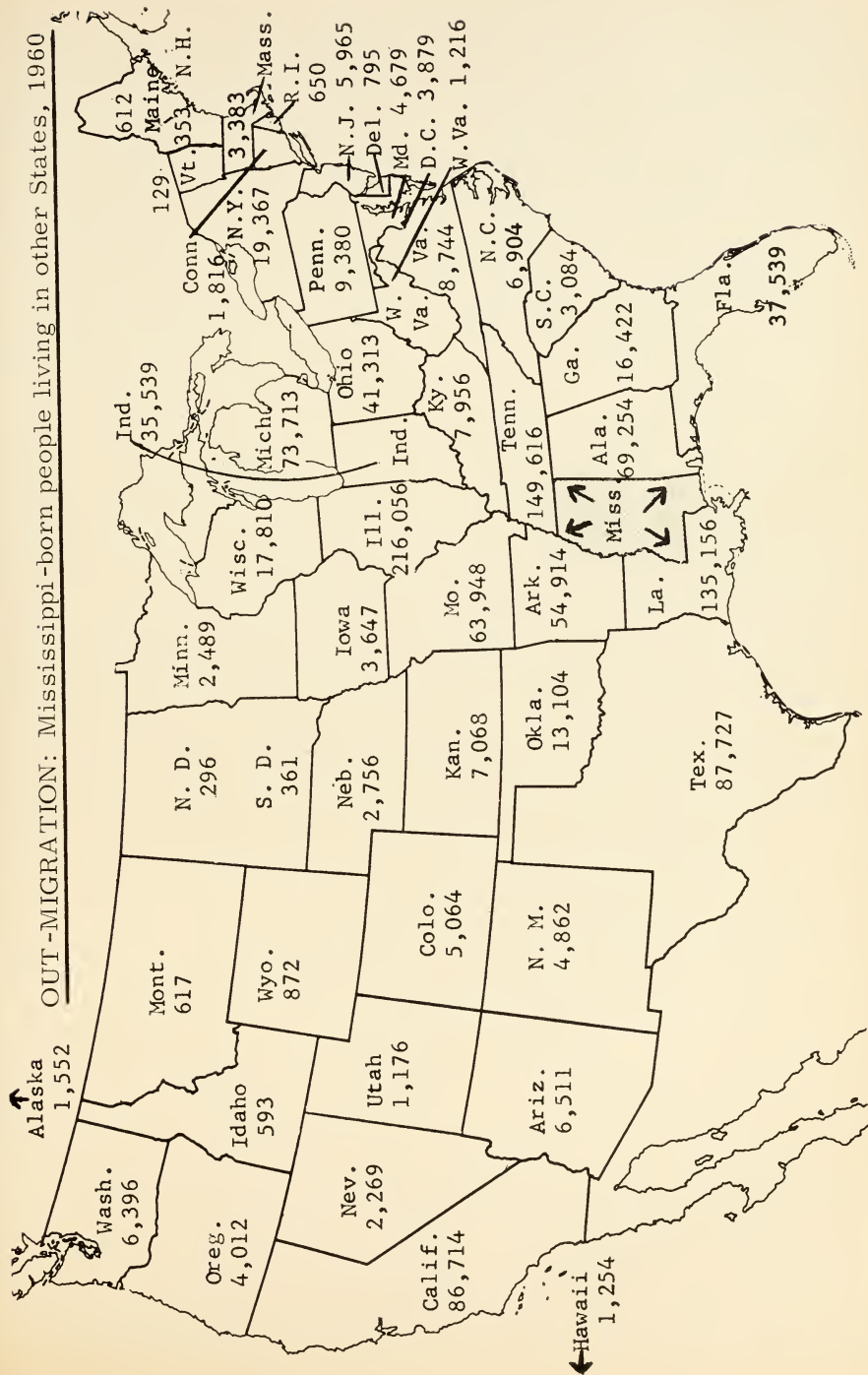
Twenty years later the number of people residing in Mississippi who were born in other states had dropped to 215,109 while the number of people living in other states but born in Mississippi had increased to 286,010, giving the state a net loss of 70,901 persons through interstate migration.

This net loss through out-migration increased at each succeeding census to a total of 960,496 in 1960.

Differential migration patterns by race, both as to degree of movement and destination, is one of the outstanding characteristics of the interstate migratory movement of the Mississippi population. Nonwhite out-migration did not gain much momentum until about 1900, with the state recording a loss of nonwhite persons through interstate migration for the first time in 1910. That year there were 106,436 nonwhites who were born in other states living in Mississippi, and 132,875 non-white persons who were born in Mississippi living in other states, an exchange differential of -26,439 persons. Since then the exodus of nonwhites has shown trends that are similar to but which exceed the out-migration of whites.

In 1930 the net loss of nonwhites through the exchange of migrants with

¹For further discussion of state of birth statistics, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Population: 1960 Subject Reports State of Birth*. Final Report AC(2) -2A. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1963.



other states exceeded that of the whites for the first time. By 1960, the net nonwhite loss (621,530) exceeded the net loss of whites (338,966) by 282,564 persons.

Out-Migration During the 1950's

The out-migration pattern of the Mississippi population during the 1950's was similar to the long term trends. There were 280,096 more persons born in Mississippi residing in other states in 1960 than there were in 1950. The figures for whites and nonwhites were nearly 123,000 and 158,000, respectively.

Table 2 shows the number of Mississippi out-migrants and in-migrants, by race, for the four major census regions of the United States. For the total population, the ratio is two out-migrants for every one moving into Mississippi from another state. For the North Central and Western regions the ratio is 12 to 1. The ratio of out-migrants to in-migrants for whites is much smaller in every region than for nonwhites. The out-migration ratio for

nonwhites is highest in the North central (90 out-migrants for every one in-migrant) and Western regions (96 out-migrants for every one in-migrant). The out-migration ratio for whites is highest in the West (five out-migrants for every one in-migrant) and South (two and one-half out-migrants for every one in-migrant, or 15 out-migrants for every 10 in-migrants).

Of the 3,108,296 persons living in the United States in 1960 who were born in Mississippi, 1,227,371 or 39.5 percent were living in other states. The number of whites born in Mississippi but living in other states (565,123) was 45 percent of the state's total white population in 1960. The number of nonwhites born in Mississippi but living in other states (662,248) was 72.0 percent of state's nonwhite population in 1960.

Short-Distance Out-Migration

Nearly one-half of the Mississippi born population living in other states in 1960

Table 2. Ratio of out-migrants to in-migrants by regions, Mississippi, 1960.

Region	Number In-migrants	Number Out-migrants	Net exchange	Ratio of Out- to In-migrants
Whites				
United States	226,157	565,123	-338,966	2.5
Northeast	14,698	16,243	- 1,545	1.1
North Central	34,877	66,787	- 31,910	1.9
South	166,672	415,995	-249,323	2.5
West	9,910	66,098	- 56,188	6.6
Non-Whites				
United States	40,718	662,248	-621,530	16.3
Northeast	709	25,412	- 24,703	35.8
North Central	4,357	398,236	-393,879	90.4
South	35,069	182,806	-147,737	5.2
West	583	55,794	- 55,211	95.7
Total Population				
United States	266,875	1,227,371	-960,496	4.6
Northeast	15,407	41,655	- 26,248	2.7
North Central	39,234	465,023	-425,789	11.8
South	201,741	598,801	-397,060	2.9
West	10,493	121,892	-111,399	11.6

Source, Table II-IX: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1960. Subject Reports. State of Birth. Final Report PC(2) -2A. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington D. C., 1963.

remained in the South (48.8 percent), with a substantial proportion of this number (68.3 percent) residing in the contiguous states of Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, and Louisiana. The 408,940 Mississippi-born residents of these four states account for one-third of all out-migrants from the state.

Of the state's 276,220 white male out-migrants, 200,712 (72.7 percent) remained in the South. Of the 288,903 white female out-migrants, 215,283 (74.5 percent) remained in the South. On the other hand, only 88,704 (27.8 percent) of the nonwhite male out-migrants and 94,102 (27.4 percent) of the nonwhite female out-migrants remained in the South. As a whole, 48.8 percent of those persons who were born in Mississippi but were residing in other states in 1960 had remained in the South.

Long-Distance Out-Migration

Whereas the bulk of white out-migration has been to other Southern states, the greatest part of nonwhite out-migration has been to the North Central region.

Of the 662,248 nonwhite out-migrants, 398,236 (60.1 percent) were living in the North Central region. This compares with 56,787 (10 percent) of the 565,123 white out-migrants living in the North Central region.

In fact, there were more nonwhites born in Mississippi and living in Illinois, which is in the North Central region, than in all the states of the census South, excluding Mississippi. Due to this heavy influx of nonwhite out-migrants Illinois contained more out-migrants from Mississippi (216,056) than any other state. Of this number, 193,118 (89.4 percent) were nonwhites. Of the western states, California had the largest number of both white and nonwhite out-migrants.

In-Migrants

A phenomenal difference is also found in the racial composition of the migrants

coming into the state. The 1960 census showed about 2.5 white persons born in Mississippi residing in other states for every white born in other states living in Mississippi. About 16 Mississippi-born nonwhites were residing in other states for every nonwhite born in other states but living in Mississippi.

A total of 266,875 persons, or 12.3 percent of Mississippi's total population in 1960, were in-migrants who were born in other states. The 117,187 white male in-migrants composed 18.9 percent of the total white male population, while the 108,969 white females living in Mississippi who were born in other states comprised 17.3 percent of the state's 1960 white female population. Of the total 226,156 white in-migrants, 166,672 (73.8 percent) were from the South, and 34,877 (15.4 percent) were from the North Central region.

The number of nonwhite in-migrants was considerably smaller, both proportionately and numerically, than was the case for white in-migrants. Although the absolute number of white in-migrants has increased at each census since 1920, the absolute number of nonwhite in-migrants has decreased at each census since 1900. Most of the state's 40,718 nonwhite in-migrants, 35,069, (or 86.1 percent) were from other Southern states. Only 4.5 percent of Mississippi's 1960 nonwhite male population and 4.3 percent of the nonwhite female population were in-migrants from other states.

Non-Migrants

Of the 3,108,296 persons living in the United States in 1960 who were born in Mississippi, 1,880,925 (60.5 percent) were still living in Mississippi. These comprised 86.7 percent of the state's total population.

Of the 773,221 white males in the United States in 1960 who were born in

Mississippi, 497,001 (64.3 percent), or 79.9 percent of the total white male population, had remained in the state. Of the 801,150 white females in the United States in 1960 who were born in Mississippi, 512,247 (63.9 percent) had remained in the state. This constituted 81.5 percent of the total white female population of the state in 1960.

Due to the fewer number of nonwhite in-migrants, a larger percentage of Mississippi's whites than nonwhites were born in the state. Of the 738,009 nonwhite males in the United States who were born in Mississippi, 419,045 (55.8 percent) were still living in Mississippi. Of the 795,916 nonwhite females in the United States who were born in Mississippi, 452,623 (56.8 percent) had remained in the state. However, these nonwhite non-migrants who had remained in the state comprised 94.8 percent of the 1960 nonwhite population.

Summary

For whites, both male and female, the greatest concentration of out-migrants from Mississippi is found in the contiguous states plus Texas and California

For nonwhites the state of Illinois contains the greatest concentration of out-migrants from Mississippi. In fact, more nonwhites who were born in Mississippi were living in Illinois in 1960 than were living in all the Southern states—excluding Mississippi—and the District of Columbia combined. Other states in the North Central region, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Missouri, and California in the West, contained large numbers of nonwhite out-migrants from Mississippi.

The greater part of the in-migrants to Mississippi from other states, for both white and nonwhite, were from other Southern states. In-migrants to Mississippi from other states accounted for much higher proportions of the 1960 total white male and female populations than they did for the nonwhite male and female populations.

The differential migration rates between the white and non-white population groups, which has been characteristic of the state since about 1910, continued through the 1950-1960 decade. At the same time, the absolute number of nonwhite in-migrants continued to decline, whereas there was an increase in the absolute number of white in-migrants.