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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

SOME PREVIEWS OF POPULATION CHANGES IN LOW-INCOME FARMING AREAS

Talk by Gladys K. Bowles  
Agricultural Economics Division  
at the 38th Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference  
Washington, D. C., 10:15 A.M., Wednesday, November 16, 1960

Introduction

The April 1955 report of the Secretary of Agriculture to the President on problems of low-income farms, "Development of Agriculture's Human Resources," delineated problem areas of the United States on the basis of low farm incomes and low levels of living in agriculture. <sup>1/</sup> This report defined the areas of principal concern to the Rural Development Program, although since its initiation in 1955, the Program has expanded to States and counties not originally included. The primary purpose of the Program is to improve the well-being of people in low-income areas.

I have been asked to talk to you today on population changes in low-income farming areas, since changes in numbers and distributions of people are of primary concern in the Rural Development Program. To place the low-income areas in context, certain changes in population throughout the United States will be discussed as well. Most of the data utilized in this paper come from the 1960 and previous Censuses of Population. Since data from the new censuses are just now becoming available, I have changed the title of my paper to "Some Previews of Population Changes in Low-Income Farming Areas." I hope you will keep in mind that much data that I should like to present today are not yet available and that the data used from the current Census of Population are in large measure preliminary. Perhaps when you come back next year at Outlook time, you'll find us better prepared to fill in the outline presented today.

U. S. Region, Division, and State Population Changes

Although the final count of persons living in the United States at the time of the 1960 Census has not yet been published by the Bureau of the Census, indications are that the number will be fairly close to 179.2

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<sup>1/</sup> U. S. Department of Agriculture. "Development of Agriculture's Human Resources, A Report on Problems of Low-Income Farmers." Washington, D. C., April 1955. For detailed information on the Areas, see Calvin L. Beale and Jackson V. McElveen, "Low Income and Level of Living Areas in Agriculture," Agricultural Marketing and Research Services, April 1955.

million. <sup>2/</sup> Thus the population has increased since 1950 by nearly 28 million or a little more than 18 percent, a somewhat larger increase than in the 1940's, when the population increase was about 14.5 percent. <sup>3/</sup>

United States estimated population, including Alaska and Hawaii:

Total population residing in the U. S.  
(Excluding armed forces abroad)

April 1, 1960..... 179,204,000

April 1, 1950..... 151,326,000

Increase ..... 27,878,000

As in the previous decade, the West led the regions in amount and rate of growth (Table 1). In this rapidly growing section of the country, population increased by 7.6 million or 37 percent in the 1950-60 decade. The South showed a growth of nearly as many people, 7.3 million, but the rate of growth was less than half that of the West, 15 percent. This same rate of growth prevailed in the North Central Region, but in numbers, the North Central had gained less, about 6.8 million. The Northeast gained just under 5 million people and had the smallest rate of gain, 12.4 percent in the 10-year period.

As is to be expected, the two divisions of the West ranked first in rates of growth among the 9 major geographic divisions of the Nation, with increases of 34.1 percent and 38.5 percent for the Mountain and Pacific, respectively. The Pacific Division had the largest absolute increase, 5.8 million, with the East North Central States running a close second with 5.6 million. The East North Central and South Atlantic Divisions, in addition to the West, had rates of growth in excess of that for the Nation.

New York continued to rank first as the most populous State and Alaska had the fewest people in 1960. New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Texas, Michigan, New Jersey, and Massachusetts - the same States that were highest-ranking in 1950 - continued to be found in same rank order in 1960. Florida, however, advanced from 20th State in 1950 to 10th State in 1960, replacing North Carolina in the top 10. Florida had the largest rate of growth among the States in the decade, 76.3 percent. Three other States, namely Nevada, Arizona, and Alaska, had growth rates

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<sup>2/</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Population Estimates, "Estimates of the Population of the United States, January 1, 1950 to September 1, 1960," Series P-25, No. 222, October 1960, estimate of population living in U. S. (excluding armed forces overseas).

<sup>3/</sup> Data in this section are based on data in 1960 Census of Population, Preliminary Reports, Population Counts for States, PC(Pl)-1, Washington, D. C., August 1960. Number and percent of changes in population were computed on the basis of preliminary figures before allocation of 1.1 million persons enumerated on special census forms. This 1.1 million consists mainly of crews of American vessels in ports of the U. S. and persons enumerated away from their usual place of residence.



in excess of 70 percent. Fifteen additional States grew at rates in excess of that for the country as a whole. In Table 1 you will find population changes for all 50 States, so you will know what has happened in your State.

California had the highest absolute increase in population in the 1950's. Nearly one-fifth of the entire increase for the United States was accounted for by California. Florida, New York, Texas, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and New Jersey had over 1 million persons more in 1960 than they had had in 1950. Seven States had increases between 500,000 and 1 million. On the other end of the scale, three States, West Virginia, Arkansas and Mississippi, and the District of Columbia, lost population during the decade.

According to preliminary figures of the 1960 Census of Population, the country is becoming more and more urbanized. Nearly two-thirds of the population now reside in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas defined by the Bureau of the Budget. <sup>4/</sup> These Areas are the large central cities of 50,000 or more people and their surrounding metropolitan counties. Within the Metropolitan Areas, the most striking population increases have occurred in the suburbs outside the Central Cities. Over two-thirds of the increase in population in the country as a whole between 1950 and 1960 occurred in those parts of Metropolitan Areas surrounding the Central Cities, and in 1960, one-third of the population of the country lived in the metropolitan Rings whereas only one-fourth had lived there in 1950. Between 1950 and 1960, the number of people living in Metropolitan Areas increased by about 27 percent. On the other hand, the population outside Metropolitan Areas increased by only about 4 percent, and the percentage that nonmetropolitan population comprised of the total decreased, dropping from 42 to 37 percent of the total.

Not all Metropolitan Areas and their Central Cities had increases in population during the decade. Changing economic conditions in a number of Metropolitan Areas caused net outmigration of people to other places. Several of the Metropolitan Areas as a whole declined in population, for instance, Altoona, Jersey City, Johnstown, New Bedford, St. Joseph, Scranton, Wheeling and Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton. Of the Central Cities within Metropolitan Areas, about 70 percent gained and 30 percent lost population. Many of the Central Cities lost population to their suburbs, but most of the Metropolitan Areas as a whole have gained.

All four of the Census major regions showed the same general patterns of population change during the decade. The greatest percentage gains occurred in the suburbs, lesser increases or decreases occurred in the Central Cities, and low increases or large decreases in the rest of the region. Metropolitan Areas of the West showed the greatest increase in suburban population followed by those of the South and the North Central States.

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<sup>4/</sup> Data in this and the following paragraph are based on data from U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Area Development, "Area Development Bulletin," Vol. VI, No. 4, August-September 1960.

Population Changes in Areas of Low Farm Income

As indicated in the report "Development of Agriculture's Human Resources," <sup>5/</sup> "Farms with low income are found in all parts of the country, but such farms are most numerous in areas of dense rural settlement with high birth rates, and where there are few outside jobs, and where topography or other obstacles hinder the use of modern machinery ... Problem areas were delineated on the basis of three criteria: Net income of full-time farmers, levels of living, and size of operation." Complete explanation of the delineation can be found in the two publications listed in footnote 1. Chart 1, "Low Income and Level of Living Areas in Agriculture" shows the areas in question. The areas of darkest hatchings are those in which problems of low income and levels of living were considered to be serious, those with diagonal lines had substantial problems, and the dotted ones were those of moderately serious problems. These are generally identified as "Serious," "Substantial," and "Moderate" Areas. Within the larger low-income area, nine generalized areas were defined, as indicated by the numbers on Chart 1.

In the analysis to follow of general population changes within the low-income farming areas, and of these areas contrasted with changes in other parts of the country, percentage change in total population resident in the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) will be used as a comparative base. In the absence of more precise measures of change due to (1) natural increase (excess of births over deaths) and (2) net migration (including immigration), comparison of their percentage changes with the national level of change indicates in a general way areas which have had net outmigration or net immigration. A percentage change greater than the national level of change indicates that there has been net inmovement from other parts of the country. On the other hand, a percentage increase of less than the national average generally indicates that there has been net outmigration, although the outmigration is less than the amount of the natural increase. And, of course, an absolute decline in population indicates heavy net outmigration because all large areas of the country have substantially more births than deaths.

Within the conterminous United States (that is, excluding Alaska and Hawaii) the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coastal areas, the areas around and south of the Great Lakes, and much of the noncoastal West have gained population at rates equal to or in excess of the national average. In the vast Middle West, the South, and the Appalachian States, the only areas of increase are those of highly industrialized urbanized counties. With only rare exceptions, rural counties in these areas show population loss.

In contrast with the United States as a whole, which gained 18 percent in population between 1950 and 1960, the sections of the country having large numbers of low-income farms gained only 4.5 percent during this period (Table 2). Moderate Problem Areas gained about 6 percent in population during the decade, those with substantial problems gained 10

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<sup>5/</sup> See footnote 1.



percent, and those with serious problems gained only .5 percent. Percentages of this magnitude indicate that there has been net outmigration from each of these broad areas, but in varying amounts. In the Serious Areas, for instance, an increase of .5 percent indicates that natural increase was just about offset by net outmigration.

The Serious Areas are highly rural in population. In 1950, and in 1960, they had a total population of about 14 million, but there was not in 1950 nor in 1960 a single city of as much as 150,000 people, although Jackson, Mississippi and Savannah, Georgia had nearly reached this number. In these areas, production, income, and levels of living among farm people all fall below minimum standards. In Chart 1 it can be seen that the Serious Areas fall within the South and Border South, except for the group of counties in Northwestern New Mexico. Included are the Old Cotton Belt, except for the Mississippi Delta, and except for some sections which have switched to tobacco or peanut production or which are near large industrial cities. They also include most of the Appalachian and Ozark Mountains and Plateaus.

Of the nine generalized geographic low-income areas, the Appalachian Mountain and Border Areas, Southeastern Hilly Coastal Plain, Southwestern Sandy Coastal Plains, and Ozark-Ouachita Mountains and Border Areas all had decreases in total population during the decade. The first two mentioned decreased about 1 percent. In the other two, decreases amounted to 7 and 3 percent, respectively. Although the other Generalized Areas had increases in total population, only Northwestern New Mexico retained its natural increase and had immigration in addition. Increases of the magnitude shown by the others (ranging from 3 to 15 percent) indicate that they had some outmigration during the period.

Included in these low-income farming areas, as they were delineated in 1955, were a number of small Metropolitan Areas which were deemed to be affected in some measure by the seriousness of the low-income problems of their surrounding farming areas. These Metropolitan Areas showed population growth on the whole, but not to the same degree as shown by such areas in the rest of the country. Metropolitan Areas in the low-income farming country gained 16 percent, contrasted with 21 percent growth of these large urban places in other parts of the country. Nevertheless, it is the growth rate of the Metropolitan places of the low-income farming areas which brings the overall rate of growth up to 4.5 percent during the decade. Nonmetropolitan counties gained only 2.6 percent. Both increase rates, however, indicate substantial outmigration during the period.

Within the low-income area, increases in population greater than the country as a whole occurred in cities where industrial development has been rapid in the decade, and/or which have new or expanded military installations. In Virginia, in the area including Langley Air Force Base, Yorktown Mine Depot, and Fort Eustis, population increased by about 28 percent. In Central North Carolina where agriculture has been declining for many years and industry has been expanding, population increases just over the national average occurred. In nearby contiguous areas, population had increased nearly as much, around 15 or 16 percent.

In South Carolina and Georgia, the Fall Line Cities and the coastal areas of Charleston (with its big air force and naval bases) and Savannah (with Hunter Air Force Base) had increases around 24 percent. Areas in northwestern and southern Alabama and in western Florida had a combination of maritime, industrial, and military expansion. Keesler Air Force Base contributed to the expansion in southern Mississippi. Southern Louisiana has undergone tremendous industrial growth, with various petrochemical and other plants moving in during the decade, particularly along the Mississippi River, and the industrial development of Shreveport has contributed to population growth in its area.

Growth of Cincinnati is reflected in adjacent low-income counties in southern Ohio and the expansion of Fort Knox installations brought about increases in counties in Central Kentucky, as did Fort Leonard Wood to its area in Missouri. In central Michigan, metropolitan Saginaw and Bay City have had rapid growth in the decade. In the Northwest, Seattle's expansion influences the general growth pattern of nearby areas.

Among the low-income areas, according to the 1955 definition, northwestern New Mexico showed the fastest rate of growth, resulting from the rapid development of Albuquerque, the expansion of mining, particularly for uranium, and the growth around atomic energy installations.

In large measure, population loss in the low-income farming areas is due to heavy migration away from farms and from small towns and cities. Between 1950 and 1959, the farm population of the entire country dropped from 25,058,000 to 21,172,000 on the old definition. This means that roughly a net of 7.0 to 7.5 million people have left for nonfarm places in the past 10 years, or that people have left at about the same rate as they did in the 1940-50 decade when the rate of outmigration was 31 percent. In addition to decline through outmigration of people, the official estimates of farm population for 1960 will be substantially lower than those for the previous years because of change in definition of what constitutes the farm population. Although published estimates of the farm population on the new definition are not yet available, preliminary indications are that the farm population may be as much as 20 to 25 percent lower because of the change in definition.

Because of changes in definition, we will probably not be able to measure precisely net migration away from farms by characteristics of people leaving and not for small areas as we were able to do for three earlier decades. We can surmise from experience of the past, and data already presented indicate in some measure, however, that rates of outmigration have probably been higher from the low-income and low level-of-living areas than for other parts of the country. In the 1940-50 decade, rate of net outmigration from the farm population was 34 percent in the low-income areas compared with a rate of 28 percent for the rest of the farm population (Table 3). Rates of outmigration were highest in the areas with most serious income problems. In that period, in the Moderate Areas, a net rate of 28 occurred while in the Serious Areas the rate was 37.

Among the Generalized Areas, the highest net outmigration rate occurred in the Sandy Coastal Plains of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas; there the rate was 49 percent. The Cascade and Rocky Mountain Areas had



a relatively low rate of net outmigration -- about 16 percent -- but in all other areas, the net loss was from a fourth to nearly a half of the rural-farm population between 1940 and 1950.

Highest rates of outmigration occur among young people just reaching working age, and this is particularly true in the low-income areas. If rates similar to those of the 1940-50 decade have prevailed in the 1950-60 period, it is likely that about 55 to 60 percent of the young people aged 10 to 19 who were on farms in 1950 have migrated to nonfarm places by 1960. Other groups with relatively high rates -- persons reaching retirement age, for example -- have probably experienced rates in the neighborhood of 25 or 30 percent, and rates for middle-aged people and people with young children have probably been lower.

Among young people in the low-income areas, rates of outmigration for the 1940-50 decade were extremely high. The rate for young people reaching working age during the decade in each of the Generalized Areas was over 50 percent and in the case of the Sandy Coastal Plains it was 75 percent.

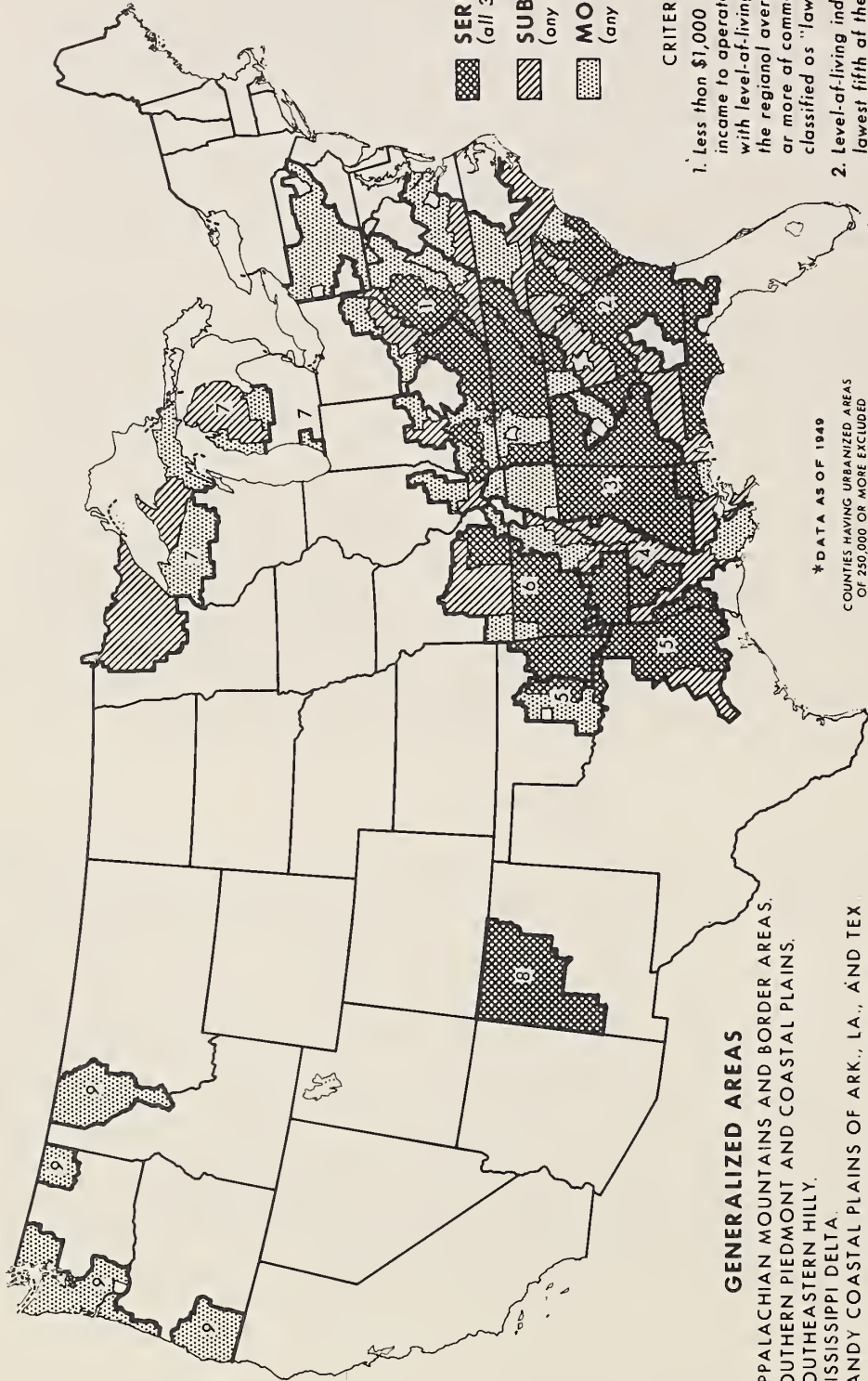
That rates of this magnitude have occurred in the 1950-60 decade, is obvious, even in the absence of precise estimates. Opportunities on farms have not increased in this decade. In fact, they have diminished as is evidenced by decline in number of farms from 5.4 million in 1950 to about 3.7 million (on the new definition) in 1959. Also, more farm young people are taking advantage of higher education opportunities. And in the main, there has been high level of nonfarm employment during the decade for those leaving farm employment for nonfarm places.

### Conclusion

Although certain of the low-income areas have achieved a more balanced economy by virtue of increased industrial or military employment in the last decade, their very low over-all rate of population gain indicates that economic activity in such areas is still insufficient to fully utilize the native labor force with the result that large numbers of people continue to migrate out of these areas in search of employment opportunities elsewhere. Thus outmovement is still the means by which large numbers of people are adjusting to the economic problems they have. The high rates of outmigration, apparent from the figures on total population change, would seem to be clear evidence of the great need that these areas have for Rural Development Programs and in particular for increased nonagricultural job opportunities to offset the declining manpower needs in agriculture. A more prosperous agriculture would also greatly help to provide additional jobs in the trades and service occupations in such areas.



# LOW-INCOME AND LEVEL-OF-LIVING AREAS IN AGRICULTURE



- SERIOUS**  
(all 3 criteria)
- SUBSTANTIAL**  
(any 2 criteria)
- MODERATE**  
(any 1 criterion)

**CRITERIA \***

1. Less than \$1,000 residual farm income to operator and family with level-of-living index below the regional average and 25% or more of commercial farms classified as "low-production".
2. Level-of-living index in lowest fifth of the nation.
3. 50% or more of commercial farms classified as "low-production".

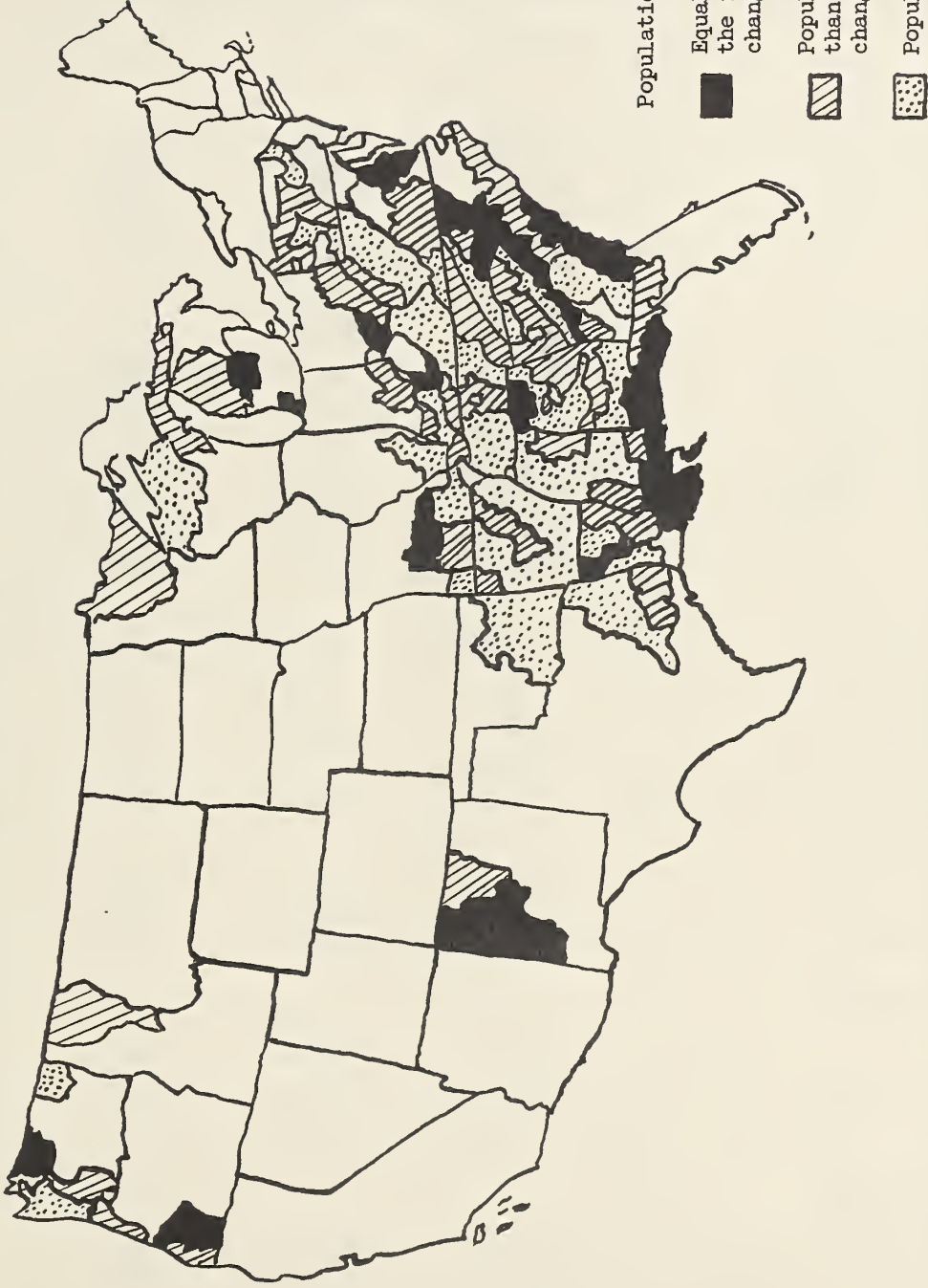
\* DATA AS OF 1949  
 COUNTIES HAVING URBANIZED AREAS  
 OF 250,000 OR MORE EXCLUDED  
 (STATE ECONOMIC AREA BASIS)

**GENERALIZED AREAS**

1. APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS AND BORDER AREAS.
2. SOUTHERN PIEDMONT AND COASTAL PLAINS.
3. SOUTHEASTERN HILLY.
4. MISSISSIPPI DELTA.
5. SANDY COASTAL PLAINS OF ARK., LA., AND TEX.
6. OZARK-OUACHITA MOUNTAINS AND BORDER.
7. NORTHERN LAKE STATES.
8. NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO
9. CASCADE AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREAS

PREPARED BY AMS AND ARS

POPULATION CHANGE, LOW INCOME AND LOW LEVEL-OF-LIVING AREAS, 1950-60



Source: 1950 Census of Population and preliminary releases of the 1960 Census of Population.

Chart 2

Table 1.--Population of the United States, by Regions, Divisions, and States: 1960 (Preliminary)\* and 1950

(Figures in thousands. Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Area	Population		Increase, 1950 to 1960	
	1960	1950	Number	Percent
United States.....	177,874	151,326	26,548	17.5
REGIONS:				
Northeast.....	44,359	39,478	4,881	12.4
North Central.....	51,308	44,461	6,848	15.4
South.....	54,463	47,197	7,266	15.4
West.....	27,744	20,190	7,554	37.4
DIVISIONS:				
New England.....	10,424	9,314	1,110	11.9
Middle Atlantic.....	33,935	30,164	3,771	12.5
East North Central.....	35,995	30,399	5,596	18.4
West North Central.....	15,313	14,061	1,252	8.9
South Atlantic.....	25,703	21,182	4,520	21.3
East South Central.....	11,963	11,477	486	4.2
West South Central.....	16,797	14,538	2,260	15.5
Mountain.....	6,805	5,075	1,730	34.1
Pacific.....	20,939	15,115	5,824	38.5
NEW ENGLAND:				
Maine.....	962	914	48	5.3
New Hampshire.....	601	533	68	12.7
Vermont.....	387	378	10	2.5
Massachusetts.....	5,115	4,691	425	9.1
Rhode Island.....	842	792	50	6.3
Connecticut.....	2,517	2,007	510	25.4
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:				
New York.....	16,656	14,830	1,826	12.3
New Jersey.....	6,040	4,835	1,204	24.9
Pennsylvania.....	11,239	10,498	741	7.1
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:				
Ohio.....	9,647	7,947	1,700	21.4
Indiana.....	4,633	3,934	699	17.8
Illinois.....	10,006	8,712	1,294	14.9
Michigan.....	7,778	6,372	1,406	22.1
Wisconsin.....	3,930	3,435	496	14.4
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:				
Minnesota.....	3,391	2,982	409	13.7
Iowa.....	2,743	2,621	122	4.6
Missouri.....	4,293	3,955	338	8.6
North Dakota.....	627	620	8	1.2
South Dakota.....	677	653	24	3.7
Nebraska.....	1,405	1,326	79	6.0
Kansas.....	2,178	1,905	273	14.3

(Continued)



Table 1.--Population of the United States, by Regions, Divisions, and States: 1960 (Preliminary)\* and 1950--Continued

(Figures in thousands. Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Area	Population		Increase, 1950 to 1960	
	1960	1950	Number	Percent
<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC:</b>				
Delaware.....	443	318	125	39.2
Maryland.....	3,075	2,343	732	31.2
District of Columbia.....	746	802	-57	-7.1
Virginia.....	3,904	3,319	585	17.6
West Virginia.....	1,848	2,006	-158	-7.9
North Carolina.....	4,532	4,062	470	11.6
South Carolina.....	2,359	2,117	242	11.4
Georgia.....	3,911	3,445	466	13.5
Florida.....	4,886	2,771	2,115	76.3
<b>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:</b>				
Kentucky.....	3,016	2,945	71	2.4
Tennessee.....	3,536	3,292	245	7.4
Alabama.....	3,246	3,062	184	6.0
Mississippi.....	2,165	2,179	-14	-0.6
<b>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:</b>				
Arkansas.....	1,771	1,910	-138	-7.2
Louisiana.....	3,234	2,684	550	20.5
Oklahoma.....	2,303	2,233	70	3.1
Texas.....	9,489	7,711	1,777	23.0
<b>MOUNTAIN:</b>				
Montana.....	670	591	79	13.3
Idaho.....	663	589	74	12.6
Wyoming.....	328	291	37	12.7
Colorado.....	1,744	1,325	418	31.6
New Mexico.....	944	681	263	38.6
Arizona.....	1,288	750	539	71.9
Utah.....	887	689	198	28.8
Nevada.....	282	160	122	76.2
<b>PACIFIC:</b>				
Washington.....	2,830	2,379	451	19.0
Oregon.....	1,758	1,521	236	15.5
California.....	15,507	10,586	4,921	46.5
Alaska.....	224	129	95	74.2
Hawaii.....	620	500	121	24.1

\* Excludes estimated number of persons enumerated on special forms not allocated to their State of usual residence and members of the Armed Forces overseas.

Note: Figures are rounded to nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

Source: See footnote 3 on page 2.

Table 2.--Population in low-income farming areas, 1960 (Preliminary) <sup>1/</sup> and 1950.

(Figures in thousands. Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Area	Total population			Metropolitan population			Nonmetropolitan population		
	1960 <sup>1/</sup>	1950	Per-centage change	1960 <sup>1/</sup>	1950	Per-centage change	1960 <sup>1/</sup>	1950	Per-centage change
United States	177,030	150,697	17.5	102,180	84,614	20.8	74,850	66,083	13.3
Low-income farming areas <sup>2/</sup>	36,370	34,813	4.5	5,827	5,031	15.8	30,543	29,782	2.6
Moderate low-income farming areas	12,962	12,269	5.6	1,717	1,544	11.2	11,246	10,726	4.8
Substantial low-income farming areas:	9,144	8,351	9.5	1,533	1,225	25.1	7,611	7,125	6.8
Serious low-income farming areas	14,264	14,193	.5	2,577	2,262	13.9	11,687	11,931	-2.0
Generalized low-income farming areas <sup>3/</sup>	36,370	34,813	4.5	5,827	5,031	15.8	30,543	29,782	2.6
1 Appalachian Mountain and Border areas	12,000	12,130	-1.1	2,515	2,414	4.2	9,485	9,716	-2.4
2 Southern Piedmont and Coastal Plains	10,987	9,620	14.2	2,042	1,557	31.1	8,946	8,063	10.9
3 Southeastern Hilly	3,398	3,441	-1.2	355	281	26.3	3,043	3,160	-3.7
4 Mississippi Delta	2,420	2,347	3.1	213	177	20.9	2,206	2,170	1.7
5 Sandy Coastal Plains of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas	2,045	2,196	-6.9	---	---	---	2,045	2,196	-6.9
6 Ozark - Ouachita Mountains and Border	1,856	1,914	-3.0	239	197	21.7	1,616	1,717	-5.9
7 Northern Lake States	1,998	1,836	8.8	462	406	13.8	1,535	1,430	7.4
8 Northwestern New Mexico	503	321	56.9	---	---	---	503	321	56.9
9 Cascade and Rocky Mountain areas	1,163	1,009	15.3	---	---	---	1,163	1,009	15.3

Figures are rounded to nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes estimated number of persons enumerated on special forms not allocated to their State of usual residence and members of the Armed Forces overseas.

(Continued)



(Continued)

2/ Areas delineated in "Development of Agriculture's Human Resources-- A Report on Problems of Low-Income Farmers". Low-income farms were classified on the basis of three criteria for State Economic Areas: (1) Farms in State Economic Areas average less than \$1,000 residual farm income to operator and had farm-operator family level-of-living index below the regional average and 25 percent or more of commercial farms classified as "low production". (2) Average farm-operator level-of-living index for the State Economic Areas was in the lowest fifth for the nation. (3) Fifty percent or more of commercial farms in State Economic Areas were classified as "low production". Areas denoted as Serious in Table 2 met all three criteria; areas denoted as Substantial met any 2 of the criteria; areas denoted as Moderate met any one of the criteria.

3/ The generalized areas represent geographic groupings of the low-income farming areas.

Source: U. S. population: U. S. Bureau of Census. Preliminary Reports, Population Counts for States. PC (Pl)-1. August 1960. (Excluding Hawaii and Alaska.)

Metropolitan and nonmetropolitan population: U. S. Bureau of Census. Preliminary Reports, Population Counts for States. PC (Pl)-2 through 52. July 1960. (Excluding Hawaii and Alaska) or preliminary county totals (press releases).

Table 3.--Net migration rates, farming income areas, United States

(Minus sign (-) denotes outmigration)

Area	Rate of net migration <u>1</u> /		
	1930-40	1940-50	
		All ages	Age 15-19
United States	---	---	---
Urban and rural-nonfarm	---	---	---
Rural-farm	-12.7	-30.9	-55.8
Medium and high-income farming areas	-13.2	-28.0	-50.1
Low-income farming areas	-12.5	-33.8	-60.9
Moderate low-income farming areas	-8.3	-27.8	-56.4
Substantial low-income farming areas	-13.9	-34.9	-60.9
Serious low-income farming areas	-14.2	-36.9	-63.6
Appalachian Mountain and Border areas	---	-27.8	-57.4
Southern Piedmont and Coastal Plains	---	-34.8	-61.6
Southeastern Hilly	---	-34.5	-60.3
Mississippi Delta	---	-39.9	-59.3
Sandy Coastal Plains of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas	---	-49.1	-75.1
Ozark-Ouachita Mountains and Border	---	-33.4	-60.8
Northern Lake States	---	-29.2	-59.3
Northwestern New Mexico	---	-39.6	-60.8
Cascade and Rocky Mountain areas	---	-16.0	-54.3

1/ Change due to migration expressed as a percentage of farm population alive at both beginning and end of decade.

Source: Bowles, Gladys K. Farm Population...Net Migration from the Rural-Farm Population, 1940-50. Agricultural Marketing Service. June 1956.