Flora, Cornelia I. L.

Kansas Migration Streams: Where They Come From; Where They Go. Bulletin 601.

Kansas State University, Manhattan, Agricultural Experiment Station.

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Sep 76

20p.

MP-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.

*Census Figures; Maps; Metropolitan Areas; Migrants; Migration; *Migration Patterns; Military Personnel; *Population Distribution; *Population Trends; Residential Patterns; *Rural Population; Rural Resettlement

*Kansas; Return Migration

ABSTRACT

Gross migration from Kansas to other states and to Kansas from the rest of the nation between 1965 and 1970 was examined. Data were obtained through a comparison of where an individual lived in 1965 with where he or she lived in 1970. Twelve percent (250,832 people) of the 1970 population migrated to Kansas between 1965 and 1970. However, 14% (298,258 people) who lived in Kansas in 1965 left by 1970. People moved the most when they were 18 to 25 years old. Two important institutions that aided their mobility were the armed forces and institutions of higher education. More students went to California, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas than came from those states to school in Kansas. However, more students came from New Mexico, Missouri, Iowa, Montana, Illinois, New York, Delaware, South Dakota, and Nebraska than went to those areas. Kansas lost large numbers of servicemen to Missouri, Texas, Illinois, and California. The majority of servicemen came to Kansas from the Pacific region. Nonmetropolitan areas of Kansas were the most attractive for out-of-state migrants as well as for Kansans changing residence to another economic area in Kansas. The step-migration of Kansas residents who moved were from a farm to a small town, to a medium sized city, to a metropolitan area in the state and then to a metropolitan area outside Kansas. Few moved from metropolitan areas to metropolitan areas in Kansas. (NO)
Kansas migration streams
where they come from;
where they go

Bulletin 601
September 1976
Agricultural Experiment Station
Kansas State University,
Manhattan
Floyd W. Smith, director
Kansas Migrations Streams:
Where they come from; where they go

By Cornelia B, Flora
Population Research Laboratory
Agriculture Experiment Station
Kansas State University

Between 1960 and 1970, approximately 52 percent of the 1960 population of Kansas left the state. However, that tells only the net loss. It does not tell us how many came in or how many left. Nor does it tell us where they went, when they left, or where those who entered came from. Here we look at gross migration from Kansas to other states and to Kansas from the rest of the nation between 1965 and 1970.

Migration is an extremely difficult phenomenon to measure. In previous research we looked simply at net migration and calculated how many people would be in an area with normal death and birth rates, if there had been no migration in or out. The difference between the expected population and the actual population we called net migration. However, there is another way to look at migration: examination of individual movement over time. The United States census uses 15 percent samples of the population to determine where each person lived in 1965. Where he or she lived in 1965 was then compared with where she or he lived in 1970. That gives a different measure of Kansas migration and a different way of assessing population movements.

One of the most striking things for Kansas between 1965 and 1970 is migration volume. Only 51 percent of the people who lived in Kansas in 1965 did not move between 1965 and 1970. Only slightly more than half lived in the same house in 1965 and 1970. The rest moved: to a different house in the same county, to a different county in Kansas, abroad, or to different U.S. states. Net migration between 1965 and 1970 was 2 percent of the 1970 population, much less than the 6 percent for the 1960-70 decade. While the difference could result from a difference in measurement technique, it is more likely because more people moved between 1960 and 1965 than between 1965 and 1970. Migration trends in Kansas between 1970 and 1974 strengthen that idea. Twelve percent (250,832 people) of the 1970 population migrated to Kansas between 1965 and 1970; however, 14 percent (298,258 people), who lived in Kansas in 1965 left by 1970.

Where did those who left go? Where did those who entered Kansas come from? Figure 1 illustrates the basic movement of population. The regional exchange is shown in Table 1.

Mobility of college students

People move the most when they are 18 to 25 years old—between graduation from high school and early adulthood. Two important institutions that aid their mobility are the armed forces and institutions of higher education, colleges and universities. First let's see how colleges influence migration, by looking at people who were in college in 1970 and where they lived in 1965, and then at people who were in college in 1965 and 1970.
Fig. 1: Net migration and migration streams to and from Kansas, 1965-70 – Total Population
Fig. 2: Net migration and migration streams to and from Kansas, 1965-70 - Persons Enrolled in College in 1970
where they lived in 1970. Figure 2 represents the migration by states to and from Kansas for college students in 1970. Twenty-two percent (20,896 individuals) of the entire college population in Kansas came to Kansas to go to school from other parts of the United States. They lived outside of Kansas in 1965. But 19.4 percent (19,122 individuals) who lived in Kansas in 1965 left to go to school by 1970. That is, 1,704 students or 1.7 percent more of the college population entered than left Kansas. Figure 2 shows that, on the whole, the exchange between states was fairly equitable. We sent more students to California, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas than came from those states to school in Kansas. However, we received more from New Mexico, Missouri, Iowa, Montana, Illinois, New York, Delaware, South Dakota, and Nebraska than we sent to those areas. Table 2 shows the regional exchange of persons who were college students in 1970.

Table 2. Migration between 1965 and 1970 to and from Kansas by persons enrolled in college in 1970 by U.S. region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>To Kansas</th>
<th>From Kansas</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Atlantic</td>
<td>2,860</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>1,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West North Central</td>
<td>6,254</td>
<td>4,457</td>
<td>1,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East North Central</td>
<td>2,952</td>
<td>2,644</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>2,126</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East South Central</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>1,414</td>
<td>-288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West South Central</td>
<td>2,839</td>
<td>3,872</td>
<td>-1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>1,676</td>
<td>2,715</td>
<td>-1,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>20,896</td>
<td>19,192</td>
<td>1,704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many people (27,382 or 45.1 percent) in college in Kansas in 1965 lived elsewhere in 1970—a net loss of 7,622 or 12.6 percent. Figure 3 represents net migration and the migration streams of college students.

By 1970 persons who were students in Kansas in 1965 had scattered to every state in the Union. The West South Central and Pacific regions received the most who were students in Kansas in 1965, followed by the East North Central regions. Those who were students in 1965 were most likely to move to Kansas from the West North Central region (Table 3).

Only the East South Central region sent us more who were college students in 1965 than Kansas sent there. Largest net receiver was the Pacific region, with more than 3,000 students from Kansas; the Mountain and South Atlantic regions had more than 1,000 each in 1970 who had been students in Kansas in 1965.

College student migration is most often related to availability of jobs. Kansas seems not to meet all the economic and other needs of college graduates, as more migrate from than into the state.

### Armed Forces Mobility

Even more mobile than college students are members of the armed forces. Kansas has several military bases or installations and had 35,813 military personnel in 1970; 63.5 percent (22,757) came to Kansas from other states. Kansas stationed in other states totaled 20,664. Kansas had a net balance of 6,379 military personnel in the state in 1970 who did not live in the state in 1965 (Figure 4). Regional movement of the Armed Forces is shown in Table 4.

Kansans, lost servicemen between 1965 and 1970. Schilling Air Force Base in Salina closed:

Table 4. Migration between 1965 and 1970 to and from Kansas by members of the armed forces in 1970 by U.S. region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>To Kansas</th>
<th>From Kansas</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West North Central</td>
<td>3,261</td>
<td>1,710</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East North Central</td>
<td>-5,966</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>5,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Atlantic</td>
<td>3,109</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>2,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East South Central</td>
<td>1,678</td>
<td>1,043</td>
<td>-635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West South Central</td>
<td>3,257</td>
<td>3,057</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>1,588</td>
<td>-408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic</td>
<td>4,577</td>
<td>5,036</td>
<td>-479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>5,932</td>
<td>-2,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>27,243</td>
<td>20,664</td>
<td>6,579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(76.1% in) (57.7% out) +18.4% net
Fig. 3: Net migration and migration streams to and from Kansas, 1965-70—Persons Enrolled in College in 1965
Fig. 4: Net migration and migration streams to and from Kansas, 1965-70—Persons in the Armed Forces in '70
People in the service in 1965 who came to Kansas by 1970 totalled 13,367 while those in service in Kansas in 1965 but left in 1970 totalled 20,184—a net loss of 6,817 or 20.7 percent of the 1965 service population.

Figure 5 represents flows into and from Kansas by those who lived between 1965 and 1970 by persons in the armed forces in 1965. The largest numbers who came to Kansas between 1965 and 1970 were serving in California or Texas in 1965. Kansas lost large numbers of servicemen to Missouri, Texas, Illinois, and California. By region the largest group (3,187) who were in the service in 1965 and came to Kansas by 1970 were from the Pacific region. More than 2,000 each came from South Atlantic and West South Central regions. Those who were in the service in Kansas in 1965 tended to go to the East North Central, the South Atlantic, West South Central, and Pacific regions, about 3,000 to each of those regions (see Table 5).

Table 5. Migration between 1965 and 1970 to and from Kansas by members of the armed forces in 1965 by U.S. region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>To Kansas</th>
<th>From Kansas</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>3,187</td>
<td>2,993</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East South Central</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>-154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>-193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Atlantic</td>
<td>2,836</td>
<td>3,064</td>
<td>-228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>1,572</td>
<td>-509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West South Central</td>
<td>2,330</td>
<td>2,999</td>
<td>-669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Atlantic</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>-978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West North Central</td>
<td>1,185</td>
<td>2,437</td>
<td>-1,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East North Central</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>3,891</td>
<td>-3,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Regions</td>
<td>13,367</td>
<td>20,184</td>
<td>-6,817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some of these men remained in the service and were sent to different bases. Others left the service and sought new areas to re-enter civilian life. Kansas’s loss in population is not simply a steady out-migration stream. There is much immigration as well; the streams running both directions suggest that as things change in Kansas, return to Kansas by those who lived here previously is not out of the question.

**Metropolitan—Nonmetropolitan Residence**

What characteristics other than geographic region attract migrants from Kansas?

Do people from metropolitan areas in Kansas move to other metropolitan areas in or outside the state when they migrate?

Do those who do not live in metropolitan areas in Kansas move to nonmetropolitan areas in or outside the state when they migrate?

Metropolitan areas are defined as a county or a group of contiguous counties that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more. In addition to the county or counties that contain such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical area (SMSA) designation if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with a central city. In Kansas in 1970, Sedgwick and Shawnee each was a single SMSA county. Contiguous counties of Wyandotte and Johnson were also designated a single Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. What about migration to and from those three areas?

Between 1965 and 1970, about 21 percent of all Kansans changed houses within their county and another 10 percent moved from the county where they lived in 1965 but remained in the state by 1970. Did this movement represent a shift from rural to urban areas, from nonmetropolitan to metropolitan areas, or was it simply movement within similar areas of Kansas?

Between 1965 and 1970, 52,193 Kansans moved into Kansas metropolitan areas. Most (more than 43,000) of these metropolitan migrants were from nonmetropolitan areas. Intra metropolitan migration within Kansas was rather small. Not many (only 8,752) moved between Wichita, Kansas City, and/or Topeka. Kansans, when they changed their area of residence, were more likely to move to nonmetropolitan than to metropolitan areas of Kansas. More than 107,000 Kansans moved into nonmetropolitan areas. Almost 39,000 moved from the metropolitan areas of Wichita, Kansas City, and Topeka into nonmetropolitan areas. During the same five years nearly 69,000 others moved from nonmetropolitan areas of Kansas into other nonmetropolitan areas of the state.

**Movement into Kansas**

More than 225,000 people came into Kansas to live between 1965 and 1970. Nearly 73,000 moved from metropolitan areas outside Kansas to Kansas metropolitan areas, while around 60,000 came from metropolitan areas outside Kansas to nonmetropolitan economic areas in Kansas. The nonmetropolitan areas of Kansas seem to attract people from outside the state. Military bases and universities attract some, but often small and medium sized towns in Kansas are attracting a substantial number of city dwellers from other states either with economic opportunities and/or to a less frantic way of life.
Fig. 5: Net migration and migration streams to and from Kansas, 1965-70—Persons in the Armed Forces in '65
Interestingly, the smallest group (about 37,000) from outside the state came from nonmetropolitan to Kansas metropolitan areas. Kansas metropolitan areas apparently do not draw highly from nonmetropolitan areas outside the state, but from outside metropolitan areas.

**Movement from Kansas**

The majority of Kansans who leave the state go from metropolitan areas to metropolitan areas. The next largest number go from nonmetropolitan Kansas areas to metropolitan areas outside the state. People from nonmetropolitan areas in Kansas are almost twice as likely as those from metropolitan areas in Kansas to move to nonmetropolitan areas outside Kansas. Kansans who moved to a metropolitan area were three times more likely to move out of state than within Kansas.

More than 92,000 who lived in Kansas metropolitan areas in 1965 lived in metropolitan areas outside Kansas by 1970. Another 37,300 moved from Kansas metropolitan areas to nonmetropolitan areas in other parts of the United States, so about 75 percent of those who left Kansas metropolitan areas moved to metropolitan areas outside of Kansas.

**Net Flows**

In exchanges between Kansas metropolitan areas and metropolitan areas outside Kansas, Kansas had a deficit of around 20,000. In exchange between nonmetropolitan areas of Kansas and nonmetropolitan areas outside the state, Kansas has a deficit of slightly more than 6,000. And Kansas has a surplus in movements from metropolitan areas to nonmetropolitan areas. People from metropolitan areas outside Kansas are more likely to move to nonmetropolitan areas in Kansas than people from Kansas are to move from metropolitan areas to nonmetropolitan areas outside the state—a difference of 23,000.

Forty-six thousand more people left nonmetropolitan Kansas for nonmetropolitan areas outside of Kansas than the number who left nonmetropolitan areas outside of Kansas for metropolitan areas in Kansas. Kansas nonmetropolitan areas attract migrants from out of state more consistently than her metropolitan areas do. People from nonmetropolitan areas in Kansas tend to move to cities and towns in their areas, then to Kansas metropolitan areas, and finally Kansas to metropolitan areas outside the state. But Kansas still had a great deal of movement among nonmetropolitan areas, both in the state and with the rest of the United States. A Kansan from a nonmetropolitan area was as likely to move to a nonmetropolitan area outside the state as to a nonmetropolitan area in Kansas. They are more likely to move from a nonmetropolitan area in Kansas to a metropolitan area outside the state than to a nonmetropolitan area outside the state. That also held for Kansans in the three metropolitan areas in Kansas. One who lived in Topeka, Wichita, or Kansas City was much more likely (11 times more likely) to move to a metropolitan area outside the state than to another metropolitan area in Kansas.

Kansas is much more likely to attract people from metropolitan areas than from nonmetropolitan areas and those who move here from metropolitan areas tend to move to metropolitan Kansas, although movement from metropolitan areas outside the state to nonmetropolitan areas in the state is substantial.

Kansas’s net inter-state migration between 1965 and 1970 was a negative 2.4 percent of its 1970 population.

**State of Birth**

Up to here we have looked at migration between 1965 and 1970. A longer period, between birth and residence in 1970, shows 62.9 percent of Kansans in 1970 were born in Kansas, compared with 64.6 percent of the U.S. population living in their state of birth. But 45 percent of the persons born in Kansas lived in another state in 1970.

Birth places are shown in Table 6. Contiguous states and western states have attracted the most Kansans. When the age and sex characteristics of those of Kansas birth are examined, we find that the very young remain in the state, but after 19 the propor-
tion still living in Kansas decreases quite rapidly. Males are more mobile than females. Differential access to the armed forces (traditionally male) likely explains most of the difference. Women were slightly less likely than men to migrate long distances.

**State-of-birth, Residence in 1965, and Residence in 1970**

To get information on return migration to Kansas, we compared place of birth to where one lived in 1970 and 1965. While that uses three arbitrary times, rather than every move a person has made at every point in time, it gives an idea of long-term Kansas stayers and return migrants.

Of persons five years and older who lived in Kansas in 1970, 58.5 percent were born in the state and also lived there in 1965, compared with 59.6 percent for the U.S. as a whole. Thus Kansans were slightly more mobile than the U.S. population as a whole. Only 3.7 percent who were born in Kansas were not here in 1965 but had returned by 1970. That compares with 3.5 percent for the nation as a whole. Of the 1970 Kansas population five years and older, 21.8 percent who were in Kansas in both 1965 and 1970 were born in a different state, compared with 18.5 percent for the nation as a whole. Thus we can say those who adopt Kansas are more loyal to their adopted state than average, at least in as much as loyalty can be measured by continued residence.

In 1970, Kansas had 57,334 who were born in Kansas and attending college in Kansas; 2,788 had returned from another state since 1965, suggesting that Kansas institutions of higher learning are attractive enough to pull back native Kansans to go to school. In 1970, 36,793 born in another state were going to school in Kansas. Nearly half of them (17,721) were living in Kansas in 1965, suggesting again that the quality of our institutions of higher education attract a large number of fairly recent migrants into the state. Of the 20,320 persons born in Kansas and living in Kansas in 1970 and in college somewhere in 1965 but not in 1970, 18,528 were in Kansas colleges in 1965. Gross in-migration between 1965 and 1970 was about 2,000 who were in college in 1965. They were native Kansans educated out of state who came back to Kansas.

Of people in college in 1965 and living in Kansas in 1970, 19,808 were born in another state; only 7,548 of them were living in Kansas in 1965 and going to college. Offsetting them were 12,260 born in another state and educated out of state in 1965 who came to Kansas by 1970.

![Image](ERIC.png)

Of persons under 30 who were not in college in 1965 or 1970 but who had at least 4 years of college, 6,369 were born in Kansas and lived in Kansas in 1965 and 1970. Another 665 born in Kansas returned to the state after getting their college education. There were 6,003 born in other states who came to Kansas by 1970, and only a third of them lived in Kansas in 1965. Unfortunately data are not available to look the other way, to answer the question, did people born in Kansas with college educations leave, and at what rate? However there is some suggestion of return migration by native Kansans, although not many considering the large number residing outside Kansas.

**Conclusions**

It is clear that the stream of migration both into and from Kansas is substantial. Kansas is a cosmopolitan state with input from many other states. Further, Kansas has an impact on every state by sending Kansans to each other state. Usually the places we send the most Kansans also send us the most immigrants. For example, California and Colorado receive a lot of Kansans but also send a lot of their residents to Kansas.

Nonmetropolitan areas of Kansas seem to be the most attractive for out-of-state migrants as well as for Kansans changing residence to another economic area in Kansas. The step-migration of Kansas residents who move probably goes like this: from a farm to a small town, to a medium sized city, to a metropolitan area in the state and then to a metropolitan area outside Kansas. Remarkably few move from metropolitan area to metropolitan areas in Kansas, suggesting that each metropolitan area tends to develop its own hinterland and that communication and linkages with other metropolitan areas is minimal, at least through human beings who carry information from one of its three metropolitan centers to the other two.

The migrants tend to be under 30 and well educated. The large flow of persons among Kansas economic areas and between Kansas and the rest of the United States can be accounted for largely by two institutions that primarily attract young people, the military and higher education. The military tends to be more global in migration streams and influences, bringing people from the far corners of the United States to Kansas and in turn sending Kansans, particularly young men, to other parts of the United States. Universities, too,
while less controlled in terms of migration flow, also attract individuals to Kansas as well as provide opportunities for Kansans to gain knowledge outside the state. The net loss of college educated individuals suggests that economic structures in Kansas do not yet provide the number of professional type jobs necessary to employ those it trains for such jobs. The 20-to-30 age group tends to be the most highly mobile and to be attracted to areas of high population density, which are generally associated with employment opportunities and a more diversified social milieu. Net migration by age among Kansas economic areas shows that Kansas metropolitan areas tend to attract young people while its nonmetropolitan areas lose them, and the metropolitan areas tend to lose old people while at least some of the nonmetropolitan areas attract them. Thus, the return migration observed during the sixties may increase in the future. Indeed, many of the “turn-around” rural counties in Kansas in 1976 can attribute the change from net out to net in migration by increasing streams of those of 60 and over, even while the young still leave nonmetropolitan areas.