

## Recent Black Migration Change

The net inmovement of Blacks to the South began in the 1970s and has since become more pronounced in each data period up to the present. In 1965-70, prior to the migration turnaround, both metro and nonmetro areas in the South were losing Black migrants in their exchange with other regions, but the rate of loss was twice as great for nonmetro areas as for metro areas (fig. 1). By 1975-80, metro net migration had reversed to a positive rate of over 1 percent, and the nonmetro net rate was just less than 0 percent. Although this initial transition was greater in nonmetro areas than in metro areas, in the time periods to follow, metro areas gained progressively more migrants than they lost, whereas nonmetro areas continued to have nearly balanced migration, with essentially a zero rate of net movement with the North and West.

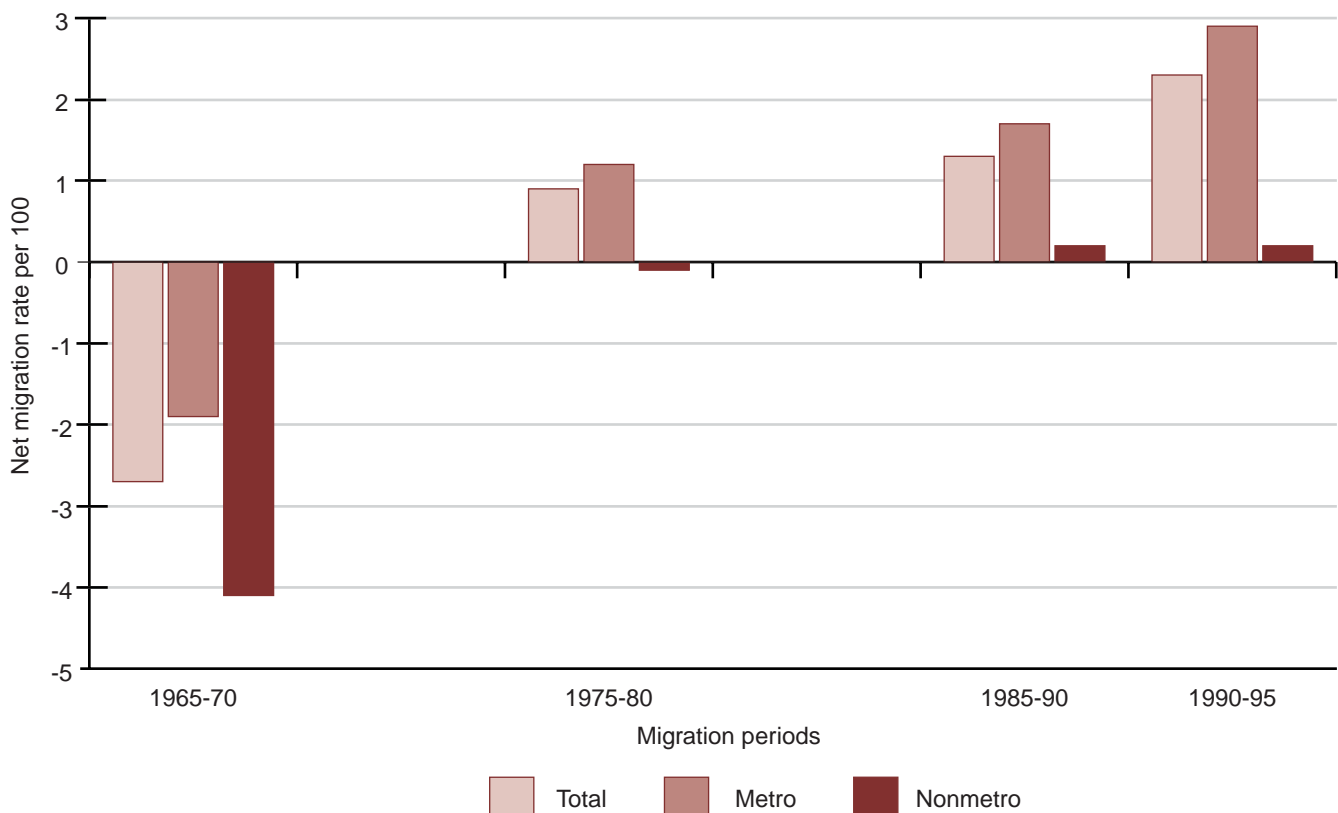
The first panel of table 1 gives the gross in- and outmigration rates along with net migration for both metro and nonmetro areas of the South. As the denominator is common for each residence, that is, the expected population had there been no migration, the in-rate minus the out-rate equals the net rate in each instance.

The marked increase in both metro and nonmetro net migration seen in figure 1 across the first two time periods (1965-70 and 1975-80) was due both to the decline of outmovement to the North and West and an increase of inmovement from the same region. Across the other two time periods (1975-80 and 1985-90; 1985-90 and 1990-95), the relative contribution of the components varied. For both residence groups, however, the out-rate from the South to the North and West dropped substantially across the 30-year period. This rate was about 30 percent higher for nonmetro areas than for metro areas in 1965-70, but the metro and nonmetro rates were about equal for the other three time periods. On the other hand, immigration relative to the expected population was always higher for metro areas than for nonmetro areas in the South, and was more than twice as large by 1990-95. Of all Black immigrants to the South from the North and West, 23 percent went to nonmetro counties in 1965-70, but only 10 percent did so in 1990-95.

The second panel of table 1 concerns another important migration flow that needs to be distinguished and deserves scrutiny. That flow is the one between metro and nonmetro areas of the South. Both before and after

Figure 1

### Net migration rates for Blacks in the South by residence: Interchange with the North and West, 1965-95



**Table 1 - Migration rates per 100 for Blacks in the South, 1965-70, 1975-80, 1985-90, 1990-95**

Migration stream	1965-70	1975-80	1985-90	1990-95
	<i>Percent</i>			
Interchange with the North and West				
Metro South:				
In from North and West	2.2	3.8	4.5	4.4
Out to North and West	4.1	2.6	2.8	1.6
Net migration	-1.9	1.2	1.7	2.8
Nonmetro South:				
In from North and West	1.3	2.7	2.6	1.7
Out to North and West	5.4	2.8	2.4	1.5
Net migration	-4.1	-0.1	0.2	0.2
Interchange—Metro-nonmetro in the South				
Metro South:				
In from nonmetro	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.9
Out to nonmetro	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.8
Net migration	1.6	1.0	0.8	0.1
Nonmetro South:				
In from metro	3.0	4.0	5.3	9.6
Out to metro	6.3	6.5	7.5	9.9
Net migration	-3.3	-2.5	-2.2	-0.3
Total				
Metro South:				
In total	5.3	6.4	7.2	7.3
Out total	5.5	4.2	4.7	4.4
Net migration	-0.2	2.2	2.5	2.9
Nonmetro South:				
In total	4.3	6.7	8.0	11.3
Out total	11.7	9.3	9.9	11.4
Net migration	-7.4	-2.6	-1.9	-0.1

the transition to Black immigration from other regions, there was a strong process of metropolitanization within the South. The region was well behind the rest of the Nation in this regard at the close of World War II but then began to catch up. The metro and nonmetro sections in the table's second panel have a reciprocal relation. Thus, over the four time periods, as the net migration loss for nonmetro gets smaller, the net gain for metro declines as well.

The second panel also illustrates the importance of considering migration components, particularly for nonmetro areas. Although nonmetro net migration loss declined from -3.3 per 100 to -0.3 per 100, both in- and outmigration rates increased considerably over the 30-year period. The decline in migration loss is due to the fact that the immigration to nonmetro locations

from southern metro areas rose considerably more than the nonmetro outmigration to the metro South. By 1990-95, both the in- and the outmigration rates were a little less than 3 per 100 for the metro South and a little less than 10 per 100 for the nonmetro South.

Because of the smaller base population on the nonmetro side, a given number of migrants results in higher migration rates for nonmetro areas than for metro areas. Also, because of the smaller nonmetro base, the metro-to-nonmetro migration has a bigger relative impact on the nonmetro population, with both in- and outmigration being almost 10 percent of the nonmetro expected population by 1990-95.

Although we must be careful in interpreting the CPS results because of limited sample size, they indicate

that with in- and outmovement rates almost equal there is now a large mutual interchange of Blacks between metro and nonmetro areas. In previous periods, by contrast, movement to southern metro areas was an important component of net migration loss from the nonmetro population.

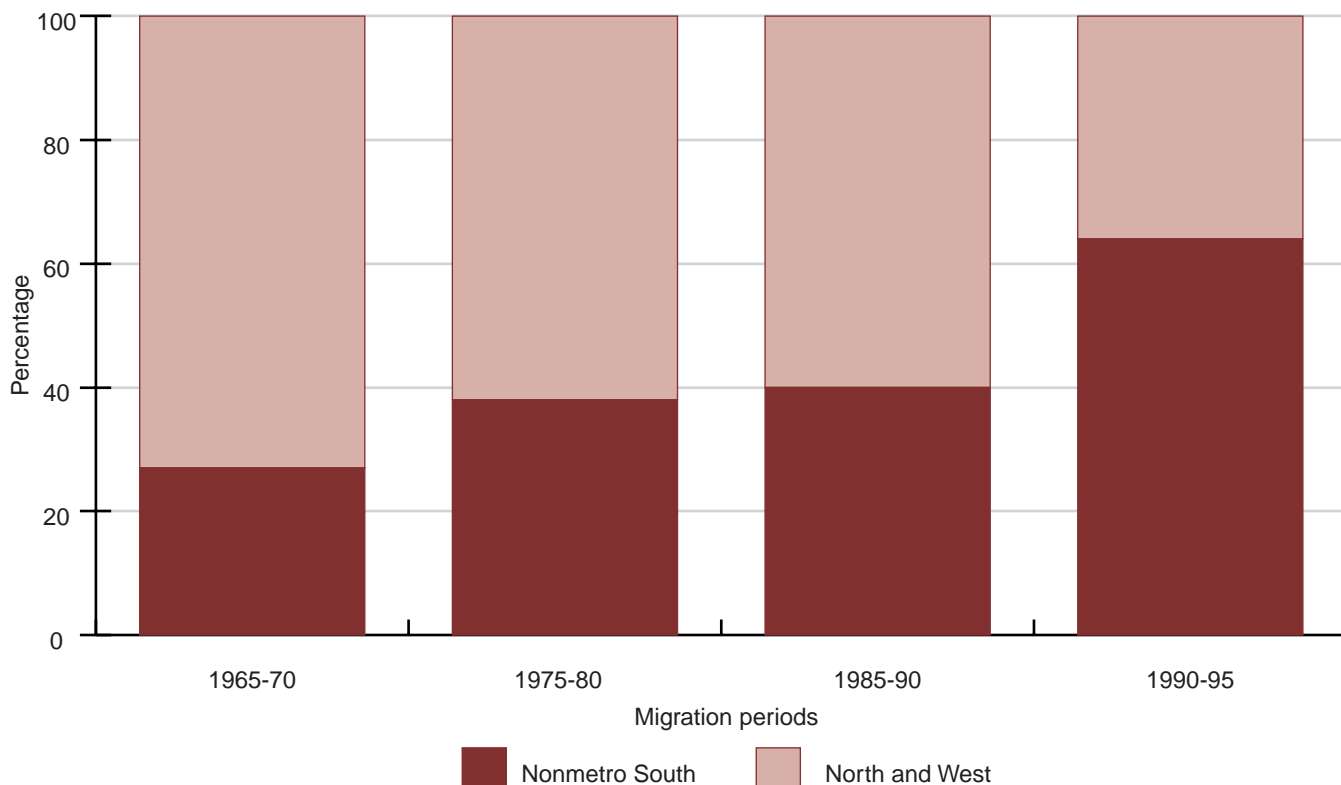
The third panel of table 1 summarizes the overall migration trend. When the first two panels are combined, both metro and nonmetro areas show a positive trend in net migration, with metro rates increasing from -0.2 to 2.9 per 100, and nonmetro loss almost ending, falling from -7.4 to -0.1. For metro areas, the immigration rate generally increased across each time interval, just as the outmigration rate declined. For nonmetro areas, the immigration rate went up systematically from more than 4 per 100 to more than 11 per 100. The outmigration total, on the other hand, dropped between the first two periods but then increased again. This unusual pattern is due to the fact that although the outmigration rate from nonmetro to the North and West has consistently dropped, the outmigration to southern metro areas has steadily grown. As a consequence, the overall outmigration rate for Blacks in 1965-70, a time when so many Blacks were still leaving the nonmetro South

for the North, was essentially the same as that for 1990-95, when almost all of the outmigration was directed to the metro South.

In absolute numbers, this nonmetro outmovement totaled more than 400,000 migrants during the migration intervals discussed from 1965-70 through 1990-95, but the dominant destinations were different. Further, between these intervals the number of nonmetro immigrants jumped from 150,000 to 400,000. The result was a net loss of more than 250,000 migrants from nonmetro areas in 1965-70, but essentially no loss or gain in 1990-95.

The increasing importance of the metro-nonmetro interchange within the South is shown by comparing the relative choice of destination for outmigrants from each southern residence group, distinguishing whether they chose northern and western or southern destinations. Although less than 30 percent of outmigrants from the metro South moved to the nonmetro South in 1965-70, and more than 70 percent went to the North and West, by 1990-95 about 63 percent chose the nonmetro South as their destination (fig. 2a). Somewhat more than half of the outmigrants from the nonmetro

Figure 2a  
Destinations of outmigrants from metro South, 1965-95



South shifted to the metro South in 1965-70, rather than move to the North and West, but almost 90 percent of nonmetro outmigrants chose the metro South in 1990-95 (fig. 2b). Clearly, the migration interaction for

Blacks between metro and nonmetro residence areas in the South became much more dominant than the remaining interchange with the North and West.

Figure 2b  
**Destinations of outmigrants from nonmetro South, 1965-95**

