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RESEARCH BULLETIN

MIGRANT FAMILIES

Composition, Size, and Employability  
of Economic Heads.

January 20, 1936

TR - 10

PREFACE

Study Procedure

This study is based upon a representative sample of approximately 5,500 interstate (Federal) transient families drawn from the case load of 85 cities located in 35 states and the District of Columbia (See Chart II). The cities were chosen to provide the wide geographical distribution necessary to include all types of migrant families, as well as to take account of differences resulting from the size of registration centers and variations in their relief programs. The number of family groups selected in each state was closely proportional to the number of family cases under care in those states on July 15, 1935 as reported by the mid-monthly census of the Division of Transient Activities. State quotas were distributed among the selected cities as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective case loads, and the actual cases were selected by random sampling wherever the case load exceeded the quota. Approximately 90 percent of the cases were drawn from the number of families already under care, and the balance from registrations during the period of the study.

Most of the field work on this study was completed during September 1935, and the schedules forwarded to Washington for editing, coding, and tabulation. Trained interviewers or enumerators were used throughout. In addition to a thorough interview with each family, advantage was taken of case record material, medical examinations, work histories, and correspondence with cooperating social agencies, as well as the first-hand knowledge of the case worker responsible for the family's welfare while receiving transient relief.

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SUMMARY

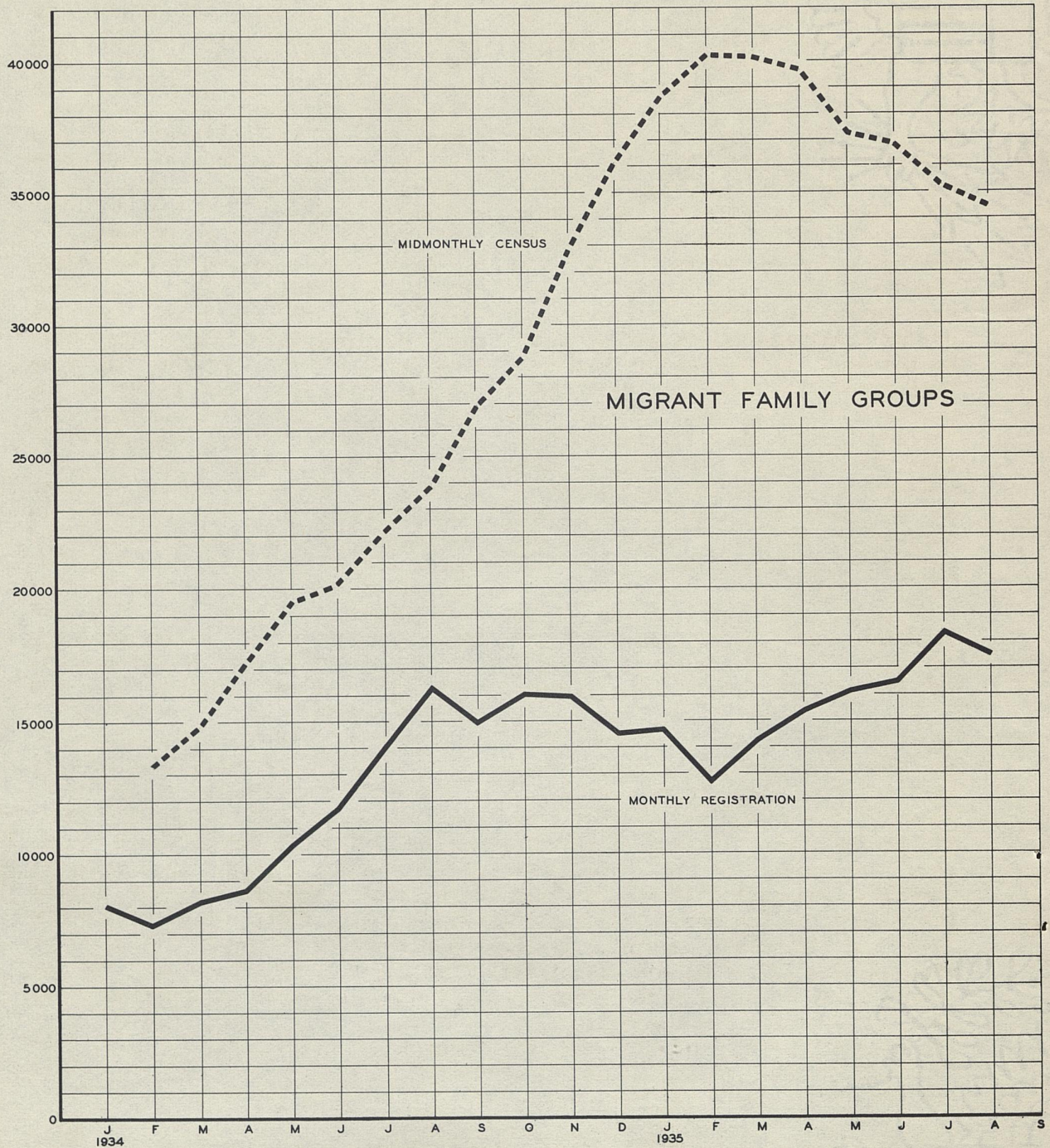
Migrant families were complete family groups in the great majority of instances, that is, the membership of most family groups on the road was identical with that of the family prior to migration. Moreover, approximately four-fifths of a representative sample of migrant families were composed of husband and wife, or husband, wife, and one or more children.

Compared with resident relief families or with families in the population at large, migrant families were distinctly smaller in size. Migrant families of two and three persons were in the majority, whereas three and four person families predominate in the resident relief load and in the general population.

By use of an arbitrary classification based upon age, physical ability, and willingness to work, it was found that somewhat over half of the economic heads of migrant families were wholly employable, approximately one-third were employable with handicaps, and the remainder (one-ninth) were unemployable. Chronic illness, partial disabilities and age were chief among the employment handicaps; while responsibility for the care of dependent children, complete disabilities, and age were the principal factors that rendered economic heads unemployable.

Among the conclusions to be drawn from this report, the more important seem to be: (1) Migrant families were principally complete families, and migration had not destroyed the unity of the family group. (2) Size appears to be one of the important selective factors in determining whether a family suffering from the effects of unemployment becomes a part of the resident or the transient relief population. (3) The extent to which transient relief families are likely to be dependent upon public assistance in the future can be determined directly from the human resources of the family group. (4) The resettlement of somewhat over half of these families is chiefly a problem of reemployment for economic heads who appeared to be wholly employable; in approximately one-third of the families, rehabilitation or careful job placement is needed to facilitate reemployment of economic heads who were partially handicapped; and about one-ninth of these families represent a problem of continued public or private assistance because of economic heads who were judged to be unemployable. Except for the one-ninth having unemployable economic heads, attempts to immobilize these migrant families by a return to legal residence should not proceed without careful consideration of the problem of suitable employment opportunities in these places of former residence.

CHART I  
 REGISTRATIONS AND CASES UNDER CARE.  
 TOTAL UNITED STATES\*



\* FROM THE REPORTS OF THE DIVISION OF TRANSIENT ACTIVITIES.

MIGRANT FAMILIES  
Composition, Size, and Employability  
of Economic Heads

Introduction. The migration of needy families during the depression years has received far less attention than the more spectacular movement of unattached persons. It was the migration of unattached individuals, earlier erroneously estimated to number from one to five million men and boys, that first attracted public attention to the needs of the non-resident unemployed; and it was to care for the needy unattached persons, actually numbering less than one-half million during any one month, that the transient camp and shelter program was developed under the provisions of the Emergency Relief Act of 1933. At the time of passage of this act, family mobility resulting from unemployment was believed to be restricted almost entirely to the families of migratory workers, and, therefore, it was not considered to be an immediate problem within the purpose of emergency relief for the non-resident unemployed.<sup>1/</sup>

During the first months of the Transient Relief Program there appeared to be ample justification for the belief that depression transien-

cy was predominantly a migration of unattached persons. On February 15, 1934 there were only 13,300 transient family groups under care in the entire United States, and during the month of February, total family group registrations<sup>2/</sup> amounted to only 7,000 cases<sup>3/</sup>. In comparison, the number of unattached transients under care on February 15, 1934 was six times, and the number registered during the month was fifteen times as large.

During the spring of 1934, family group registrations and cases under care increased steadily; but the latter increased more rapidly than the former, and continued to rise during the fall and winter months despite a seasonal decline in monthly registrations. (See Chart 1). The steady increase in migrant family cases under care despite fluctuations in registrations, is evidence of the preponderance of cases opened over cases closed. The transient family population reached a maximum in February, 1935 when 40,200 cases--about three times the number a year earlier--were under care of transient bureaus in the United States.

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1/ Migratory workers, both unattached and family groups, were specifically excluded from eligibility for transient relief out of Federal funds, by a Federal Emergency Relief Administration memorandum of September 19, 1933.

2/ In the administration of transient relief, "registrations" were analogous to "openings" in resident relief procedure. A report of "closing", however, had much less significance in transient, than in resident, relief procedures, since most transient cases were closed because of departure from the transient center. A rough approximation of monthly closings of migrant family cases can be obtained from Chart 7, by subtracting the increase in cases under care reported by the mid-monthly census from total registrations for the month.

3/ Although the Transient Relief Program was initiated in July, 1933 reliable records of registrations were not available until January, 1934; and the first census of cases under care was taken on February 15, 1934.

This steady growth in the number of transient families created a difficult problem of relief administration. The expansion of the Transient Relief Program was almost entirely in terms of shelters and camps, where congregate care could be maintained at low cost. Obviously, families could not be housed in dormitories and fed en masse. Special care and facilities were required if relief was to be administered efficiently; and it was with growing concern that transient relief officials saw the steady increase in the number of family groups.

This increase can be explained on one of two assumptions: (1) the provision of relief to non-residents was an incentive to family group mobility; and (2) a slow but steady migration of family groups was an unnoted aspect of the depression that was revealed only when facilities for the care of non-resident persons permitted an accumulation of cases. The latter is much the more logical assumption, even though the former has some claim to validity.

If, on the one hand, it can be shown that the provision of relief to depression migrants operated as an incentive to aimless wandering, as has often been charged, then the basic idea of the Transient Relief Program was erroneous. On the other hand, if it can be shown that widespread unemployment creates an expulsive force sufficient to uproot families and start them on a migration for which they are ill prepared, then transient relief is an essential part of any well-planned relief program.

In this and subsequent bulletins there will be presented a careful examination of family group migration as a problem of relief. The cases selected for study represent a broad cross-section of the transient family population in the United States during the early fall of 1935<sup>4/</sup>. This bulletin will be devoted to an account of the composition and size of transient families their completeness in comparison with the family group before migration, and the number and identity of missing members, together with data bearing on the employability of the economic heads of migrant family groups.

The immediate purpose of this information is to establish the nature of transient family groups, that is, whether they were true families in the ordinary meaning of the term, or simply aggregates of individuals temporarily associated for the mutual benefits to be derived from group travel; and the extent to which the human resources of these groups are sufficient for a self-supporting existence. These points must be clearly established before attempting to relate the fact of family group migration to unemployment, relief, and resettlement.

#### COMPOSITION AND SIZE

Composition. Migrant families were complete family groups in the great majority of cases. That is, most family groups on the road were

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<sup>4/</sup> See Preface for the method of selecting the sample and the procedure of obtaining the data.

identical in membership with the family group prior to migration. Less than one-tenth of the transient families studied had one or more members absent from the relief group and in only a very small proportion of cases was the economic<sup>5/</sup> head of the group among the absentee members. These facts can be conveniently set forth in tabular form:

Table A. Federal Transient Family Groups With and Without Absentee Members.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
All Families		5489
All Families	100	
Without Absentees	91	
With Absentees	9	
Economic head present	6	
Economic head absent	3	

Not only were the great majority of migrant families complete in the sense that all members usually a part of the group were present, but they were also normal<sup>6/</sup> family groups.

<sup>5/</sup> Because of the presence of incomplete family groups on the road it is necessary to distinguish between the economic and present head of the group. If the economic head of the family was absent, the present head was some member of the family group other than the person usually responsible for the economic welfare of the group.

<sup>6/</sup> Families composed of husband and wife, or husband, wife and their children are commonly referred to as normal families; families composed of a man and his children or a woman and her children are usually described as broken families. It is with these specific meanings that the terms normal and broken are used in the report.

Approximately four-fifths of the migrant families studied consisted of husband and wife (27.9 percent) or husband, wife, and one or more children (51.2 percent); and in addition, there was a small proportion (3.3 percent) of normal families that included some other related or unrelated person. Table B compares the composition of migrant families on relief (present group) with the composition of these same families before migration (complete group).

Table B. Federal Transient Families Classified by Composition of Present and Complete Family Groups.

Family Type	Present family group	Complete family group
All Families	5489	5489
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
All Families	100.0	100.0
Normal	82.4	85.3
Husband-wife	27.9	26.4
Husband-wife children	51.2	55.1
Normal with others <sup>a/</sup>	3.3	3.8
Broken	17.6	14.7
Woman-children	13.3	10.7
Man-children	2.2	1.9
Broken with others <sup>a/</sup>	1.7	1.7
Other <sup>b/</sup> types	0.4	0.4

<sup>a/</sup> Related or unrelated persons included in normal or broken families.

<sup>b/</sup> Other related or unrelated persons traveling as a family group.

It is important to observe from this comparison that the proportion of broken families on the road was only slightly larger than the proportion among these same families before migration. The increase in the proportion of broken families of the woman-children type from 10.7 percent to 13.3 percent during migration is an indication of the extent to which male family heads were absent from the relief group. Thus, the report that the desertion of family heads was responsible for a considerable part of the distress of migrant family groups appears to have little foundation. It is also of interest to observe that the proportion of migrant families that left their children behind was small<sup>7/</sup>; and that in comparison with family composition before migration the proportion of broken families in which the wife was absent (man-children type) from the relief group was increased by less than one-half of one percent.

This investigation of composition establishes the fact that migrant families were principally complete families, and that migration had not destroyed the unity of the group. In advance of a detailed examination of reasons for migration<sup>8/</sup>, it may be inferred from the composition of migrant families that they had made

<sup>7/</sup> That is, a comparison of family composition shows that the proportion of families consisting of husband and wife only increased from 26.4 percent before, to 27.9 percent during migration.

<sup>8/</sup> The reasons for family group migration will be the subject of a later bulletin in this series.

a complete and definite break with the community of former residence. At this point it is important to examine the size of migrant families to see wherein they were like or unlike the resident family population from which they came.

Size. Among the complex of factors that determined whether a family migrates during the depression period, the size of the family is of major importance. The presence of children particularly small ones, tends to immobilize families; and this tendency increases with the number of children. Therefore it is to be expected that the proportion of small families in the transient population would be larger than in the resident population. This is readily demonstrated by a comparison of the proportion of large and small families among migrant families with a similar classification of the resident relief population of 1933, and the general population of 1930. (See Table C next page).

This comparison brings out three interesting and significant facts (1) migrant families included a relatively large proportion of small families whether the comparison is made on a basis of the relief group or the group before migration; (2) migrant families were smaller than families in the general population from which they came; and (3) migrant families were markedly smaller than resident relief families. Size is an important selective factor in any family group migration, and this appears to be true particularly in the migration of families suffering from the effects of widespread unemployment. Although in many respects,



migrant families dependent upon relief from the Transient Program were more like families in the resident relief, than in the general population, yet, on the whole, migrant and resident relief families differed more in size one from the other than did either group when compared with the general population. Three-fifths of the migrant families consisted of two and three persons, while almost exactly the same proportion of resident relief families consisted of four or more persons. A complete distribution of migrant families by size and family type is presented in Table 1, Appendix A.

Composition and size have an important bearing on the social problem presented by migrant families. Because the great majority of these families were complete, the extent to which they are likely to be dependent upon public assistance in the future can be determined directly from the human resources of the group. And because migrant families were small, rehabilitation should be less difficult and expensive than for a similar number of families from the resident relief population. However, the evident mobility of migrant families should stand as a warning against any at-

Table C. Comparison of the Size of Migrant Families with the Size of Families in the Resident Relief Population of 1933, and the General Population of 1930.

(Percent Distribution)

Size of Families	Migrant Families <sup>a/</sup>		Resident Families	
	During migration	Before migration	1933 Relief Census <sup>b/</sup>	1930 Census <sup>c/</sup>
Total	100	100	100	100
2 person families	35	32	20	25
3 person families	25	25	20	23
4 person families	17	18	19	19
5 or more persons	23	25	41	33

<sup>a/</sup> See Table 1, Appendix A, for a detailed distribution of migrant families by size and family type.

<sup>b/</sup> Omitting one-person families. See Unemployment Relief Census, October 1933, Report No. 1, F.E.R.A. Washington, D.C., 1934, Table 2, page 24.

<sup>c/</sup> Omitting one-person families. See Fifteenth Census, Population, Vol. VI, page 7

tempt to resettle them without careful attention to their need as individual families. Of even more importance, their mobility is ample evidence that an indiscriminate return to the place of former settlement is likely in many instances to end in failure. The very fact of migration during a depression period is evidence of a protest - of the fact that the family had found the community of former residence lacking in one or more aspects considered vital to their well-being. To return the family to that environment solely on the basis of a legal concept of responsibility would be to place the blame for break with community life entirely upon the family.

Migrant families with an employable head represent principally a problem of reemployment; but, to be permanent, the solution of this problem requires intelligent direction of these families into areas offering sufficient economic opportunity to insure a return to stability. On the other hand, migrant families without an employable head represent a problem of continued public assistance in some form; and families with a head who is employable but handicapped represent either a problem of rehabilitation or one of careful job placement. Therefore, having established the

fact that in the main, migrant families are small, but complete social and economic units, it is important to determine in approximately what proportion the head is wholly employable, partially employable, and entirely unemployable.

EMPLOYABILITY OF THE ECONOMIC HEAD OF MIGRANT FAMILY GROUPS<sup>9/</sup>

Employable. It has been shown on (page 4, above) that the economic head was present in all but 3 percent of the migrant family groups. This circumstance permitted a careful and detailed examination of employment status. In somewhat over half of the families studied there appeared to be no question about the employability of the economic head; that is, the head was present in the relief group, had no ascertainable employment handicaps, and was willing to work. Of the 138 economic heads who were absent from the relief group, slightly under half were reported as employable without handicaps.

The employability of economic heads of migrant families is presented in Table D, below.

<sup>9/</sup> See Appendix B for method of determining employability in this study.

Table D. Employability of Present and Absent Economic Heads of Federal Transient Family Groups

Employability of Economic Head	Total	Head Present	Head Absent
All economic heads	5489	5351	138
P E R C E N T   D I S T R I B U T I O N			
All economic heads	100	100	100
Employable	55	55	49
Employable with handicaps	33	33	33
Unemployable	11	11	12
Not ascertainable	1	1	6

It is recognized that willingness to work taken in conjunction with an absence of employment handicaps does not assure reemployment by private industry. Such factors as age and employment opportunities, to name only the more obvious, have an important bearing upon the reabsorption of heads of migrant families judged to be employable in this study. To some extent the effect of age on employability has been minimized by the arbitrary restriction of the wholly employable group to economic heads sixteen through fifty years of age<sup>10/</sup>. But it is clear that arbitrary restrictions cannot be applied to other factors, such as the location of these migrant workmen in relation to opportunity for employment. The watchmaker, assembly line worker, or elevator operator, is less likely to find employment in an agricultural, than in an industrial, community. There were certain to be many ill-directed migrations among transient families; but this, as well as the examination of occupational skills and similar conditioning factors, is better left for later reports. At this point the purpose is to classify migrant families according to the simplest criterion of employability - absence of bodily handicaps plus willingness to work. In these terms, it may be said that slightly over one-half of the economic heads of migrant families were employable, and therefore represented chiefly a problem of reemployment by private industry at a wage sufficient to insure stability.

<sup>10/</sup> By definition, an economic head was a person sixteen years of age or older.

The employability of the economic heads of the remaining families - amounting to approximately 45 percent - offers a much more difficult problem of analysis. Clearly some must be judged totally unemployable by any criteria; and the bodily handicaps of others were such as seriously to restrict the range of gainful occupations in which they might engage. However, there were some whose employment handicaps were probably more apparent than real. For instance, age was considered a partial employment handicap for all economic heads fifty-one through sixty-four years, and a total handicap for all heads sixty-five years of age and older. This is obviously an arbitrary procedure that probably does some violence to the facts; but it is believed that it does less violence than would have resulted from ignoring the well-known tendency of employers in hiring workers to discriminate in favor of younger men. Any attempt to define employability - or degrees of employability - in terms of probable reabsorption by private industry presumes a knowledge of future developments in economic activity that does not exist. Therefore, the discussion which follows has as its purpose an examination of factors which affect, but do not necessarily determine, the employability of nearly half of the economic heads of family groups included in this study.

Employable with handicaps. Table D, above, shows that approximately one-third of the economic heads of migrant families were neither wholly employable nor wholly unemployable according to the criteria used in

this study. That is, one out of every three of the economic heads was willing to work but there were one or more reasons for believing that his ability to work was subject to limitations that would act as a handicap in the labor market<sup>11/</sup>. (See Table 2, Appendix A, for distribution of employment handicaps).

Chronic illness was the employment handicap most frequently reported. In relation to the total number of family groups studied (5489) 11 percent of the economic heads were willing to work but were disqualified for employment requiring full and sustained bodily vigor. Among the more important types of chronic illness were in order of importance: diseases of the respiratory system; heart, circulatory, and blood diseases; and diseases of the stomach and abdomen.

The proportion of family heads handicapped by chronic illness was considerably higher in this than in a previous study<sup>12/</sup> of transient

family groups. The reason for the difference seems to be attributable both to the earlier method of studying continuous monthly registrations<sup>13/</sup>, which represent the more mobile portion of the population, and to the far more complete examination of employability made in this study (See Appendix B). In the earlier study ill health ranked second only to a search for work among the reasons for family group migration; and yet the proportion of family heads who were reported as "unemployable" because of ill health was much smaller than the proportion that began migration for this reason. The results from the present study serve to correct this obvious contradiction, and indicate that migrant family heads suffering from ill health (and from other employment handicaps as well) tend to overstate their ability to work either out of pride or the belief that it would improve their chances of obtaining relief or employment. The importance of ill health in family group migration will be considered again in con-

<sup>11/</sup> In a considerable number of cases a person suffered from more than one employment handicap. For instance, an economic head who had lost the full use of his right arm and in addition was fifty-five years of age. In this case there were present both an age and a disability handicap. For purposes of this report, only one handicap was tabulated--the one that most directly affected the employment of the individual. In the case cited above, physical disability would be tabulated rather than age.

<sup>12/</sup> See Research Bulletins Nos. TR-1, 2, 3, 6, and 8, December 28, 1934 to August 26, 1935, Division of Research, Statistics, and Finance, F.E.R.A., Washington, D.C.

<sup>13/</sup> Continuous monthly registrations did not take account of the tendency of family groups to accumulate in areas which for one reason or another were considered desirable. Thus among the monthly registrations in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, the proportion of family heads suffering from ill health was probably smaller than the proportion of such persons already under care in these states. Since the present study was based principally upon a sample of transient families already under care in transient centers, (see Preface), it may be expected that the proportion of family heads in poor health would be somewhat larger than among family heads currently registered.

nection with a later bulletin on reasons for migration.

Age was considered an employment handicap for all economic heads, who though able and willing to work, were fifty-one through sixty-four years of age. As a predominant handicap, age affected approximately 7 percent of all economic heads, and in importance ranked next to chronic illness. (See Table 2, Appendix A.) As stated earlier, this designation of age as an employment handicap is an arbitrary procedure adopted for the purpose of making some allowance for the age restrictions imposed by many employers. In further support of this handicap classification, it is urged that not only were these persons out of work and over the "dead line" for hiring, but they were also migrants, and therefore open to the charge of instability. Although it is admitted that no special virtue is attached to the age of fifty-one rather than forty-nine, or fifty, as the point at which age becomes a handicap in securing private employment, it is believed that the limit selected in this study is more likely to be too high than too low. In other words, it seems probable that there were more economic heads of migrant families under fifty-one years whose age constitutes a handicap, than there were heads fifty-one to sixty-five whose age does not<sup>14/</sup>.

Physical disabilities that restricted, but did not entirely prevent, participation in gainful employment completes the list of the three most important employment

<sup>14/</sup> A detailed discussion presenting age and occupational distributions will appear in a later bulletin of this series.

handicaps found among the economic heads of migrant families: (See Table 2, Appendix A). These three handicap classifications account for approximately two-thirds of all heads who were considered to be employable but with handicaps. Chief among the physical disabilities were: injuries to trunk or back; injuries to one or both eyes; and leg, ankle, or foot injuries. That serious employment handicaps are presented by these and similar physical disabilities under modern hiring procedures seems too obvious to require discussion.

Each of the other employment handicaps shown in Table 2, Appendix A, included a relatively small number of individuals. The principal value of these classifications is to show some of the problems that confronted transient bureau officials in the administration of relief to migrant families. Among these other handicaps, the care of the family (which restricted women heads to part-time employment), illiteracy, and "other disabilities" were of most importance. The first two need no comment; the last included a considerable variety of circumstances among which were personality difficulties and unwillingness to work. In order to show the variation of employment handicaps among family types, the data in Table 2, Appendix A, are classified by family composition.

Unemployable. There remains approximately one-ninth of the economic heads who were judged to be totally unemployable. Women heads with dependent children requiring their entire time accounted for slightly over one-half of all economic heads classified as wholly

unemployable. Next in importance, representing 4 percent of all economic heads and approximately one-third of all unemployables, was a group of economic heads who, regardless of age, were so completely incapacitated by bodily infirmities or disabilities as to be clearly unfitted for gainful employment. And finally, this group includes those economic heads who were apparently able, and certainly willing, to work but who were sixty-five years of age or over. Again, and for the same reasons as those advanced in the discussion of age as a partial handicap, an arbitrary age limit has been used. Age was the least important of these three factors, accounting for slightly under 1 percent of all economic heads and approximately one-fourteenth of all those classified as unemployable. These results classified by family composition, are presented in Appendix A, Table 2.

In closing this discussion of employability, it is important to caution against the use of the results from the several tables to divide this or any other sample of

migrant family heads into exact proportions of employables, employables with handicaps, and unemployables. The variations of sampling, the errors of enumeration, and the arbitrariness of definitions affect the results obtained. Other samples enumerators, definitions, or any one of these, would undoubtedly give rise to different numerical results, though it is believed that the order of the three groups would not be changed, nor the proportions so altered as to render this discussion invalid. Insofar as this discussion has value, that value lies in the fact that through the use of arbitrary classifications a representative sample of migrant families has been examined in some detail; and a determination made of roughly what proportions had economic heads who were relatively free from handicaps, were handicapped in some degree, or were totally unemployable. It is believed that such information has value both as a record of one phase of relief administration and as a guide to future relief or assistance procedures in resettling or rehabilitating migrant family groups.

## APPENDIX A

Table 1. Federal Transient Families Classified by Composition and Size of the Present and the Complete Family Group

Size of Family Group	Composition of Family Group				
	Total	Husband-wife- <u>a</u> / children	Woman- children	Man children	All others
Present family group	5489	4343	728	119	299
Complete family group	5489	4476	589	105	319

## P E R C E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

Present family group	100	100	100	100	100
2 person families	35	35	42	43	15
3 " "	25	24	30	31	30
4 " "	17	17	14	12	19
5 " "	10	10	7	7	19
6 " "	5	6	3	4	8
7 " "	4	4	3	1	4
8 " "	2	2	1	-	2
9 " "	1	1	*	1	2
10 persons and over	1	1	*	1	1
Complete family group	100	100	100	100	100
2 person families	32	32	41	37	13
3 " "	25	25	29	28	29
4 " "	18	18	15	13	19
5 " "	11	11	7	14	18
6 " "	6	6	4	6	9
7 " "	4	4	3	1	4
8 " "	2	2	1	-	3
9 " "	1	1	*	1	3
10 persons and over	1	1	*	-	2

\* Less than .5 of 1 percent.

a/ Husband and wife, or husband, wife, and one or more children.

Table 2. Employability of the Economic Heads of Transient Family Groups, Classified by Composition of the Family before Migration and by Types of Employment Handicaps

Employability	Composition of Family Group					
	Total	Husband-wife	Husband-wife-children	Woman-children	Man-children	All others
All Economic Heads	5489	1447	3029	589	105	319
Employable	3030	874	1902	53	52	149
Employable with handicaps	1796	508	997	116	52	123
Unemployable	600	43	106	411	1	39
Not ascertainable	63	22	24	9	-	8
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION						
All Economic Heads	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 <sup>b/</sup>	100.0
Employable	55.2	60.4	62.8	9.0	49.5	46.7
Employable with handicaps	32.7	35.1	32.9	19.7	49.5	38.6
Physical disability	5.8	5.7	6.7	.5	15.2	4.7
Mental disability	.9	1.0	.9	.5	-	1.6
Chronic illness	10.9	10.7	12.6	2.8	8.6	11.0
Age (51-64)	6.7	10.0	5.6	2.0	17.1	7.2
Women (part time employment) <sup>a/</sup>	1.8	-	.3	11.9	2.9	6.0
Illiteracy	1.8	1.7	1.9	.5	2.9	2.5
Temporary disability	.7	.6	.9	.2	-	.9
Temporary illness	1.2	1.5	1.2	.3	.9	1.6
Institutionalization	.3	.4	.3	.3	-	-
Other handicaps	2.6	3.5	2.5	.7	1.9	3.1
Unemployable	10.9	3.0	3.5	69.8	1.0	12.2
Age (65 or over)	.8	1.3	.3	1.0	-	3.4
Women with dependent children	6.1	-	.3	53.7	-	3.4
All other disabilities	4.0	1.7	2.9	15.1	1.0	5.4
Not ascertainable	1.2	1.5	.8	1.5	-	2.5

a/ Where the care of the family required only part time, and the woman was able to work, willing to work and had a work history.

b/ It is obvious that no increase in accuracy is achieved through reporting percentages in this column to one decimal place. It is done for the sake of consistency with other columns in this table.



## APPENDIX B

Method of Determining Employability

In this study employability was determined after a careful consideration of the following factors: (1) Interview and case record information regarding the temporary or permanent physical and mental disabilities, temporary or chronic illnesses, personality and speech difficulties, attitudes toward employment, illiteracy, and similar factors bearing on ability and willingness to work; (2) medical examinations, clinic and hospital reports whenever available<sup>a/</sup>, (3) type and recency of work done before migration, and participation in work relief program of transient center; (4) age; (5) responsibility for care of dependent children under 16 years of age; (6) the interviewer's and case worker's opinion of employability. After these factors had been con-

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a/ Naturally, medical examinations were available much more frequently for economic heads suffering from chronic illness than for economic heads having minor disabilities. However, a surprisingly large number of case histories of all types of migrant families included notations of medical attention or physical examinations.

sidered for each case, one of the following employability classifications was assigned; (1) Employable (2) Employable with handicap, or (3) Unemployable. The employable group includes those who were under fifty-one years of age, were willing to work, and for whom no handicaps were reported. In cases where the economic head was sixty-five years of age or over was a woman responsible for the care of dependent children, or was definitely listed as unemployable by the interviewer, the term unemployable was applied. In other cases, the seriousness of handicaps was considered so that a judgment could be made as to whether the economic head was "employable with handicaps" or unemployable.

In the event that data contained in this bulletin are compared with similar data from previous studies, or for other relief groups, it must be borne in mind that the sum of the cases listed as employable and employable with handicaps, correspond roughly to cases included in the "able and willing to work", or "working or seeking work" categories used elsewhere.

CHART II

LOCATION OF TRANSIENT CENTERS INCLUDED IN  
STUDY OF MIGRANT FAMILY GROUPS

