

Cracken) in 1957 contained 38 percent of the state's population compared to only 32 percent in 1950.

Changes in the 10 non-metropolitan economic areas (see map) also show that the shift to urban areas is affecting all parts of the state. Urban growth is the primary reason for population increase in nearly every one of the five economic areas which gained (Area 1—The Purchase; Area 2—Owensboro-Henderson; Area 3b—Eastern Pennyroyal and Knobs; Area 4—The Pennyroyal; and Area 7—The Inner Bluegrass). On the other hand, the five economic areas which lost in population were areas dominated by agriculture or coal mining and were without large urban areas (Area 3a—The Western Coal Fields; Area 5—The South Central Knobs; Area 6—The Outer Bluegrass; Area 8—The Cumberland Plateau Margin; Area 9—The Cumberland Plateau).

Most Important Changes

The two most important changes, both in numbers and rates, were in Jefferson county's continued increase, and the tremendous decrease in Economic Area 9.

In 1950 Jefferson county had about 27,000 fewer persons than Economic Area 9. Only 7¼ years later, in 1957, the county had about 158,000 more people than Area 9. This is a startling change. Although Jefferson county has steadily gained in population, in no decade from 1860 to 1950 had the Cumberland Plateau failed to gain population. But there is no doubt that the census of 1960 will show a sizeable loss of population in this area.

How can we account for these spectacular changes in the two areas?

Fundamentally, population change is a result of the number of births, the number of deaths, and the migration into and out of the areas during the period being studied.

As expected, from 1950 to 1957 Jefferson county gained through net migration (i.e., the number of migrants coming into Jefferson county exceeded the number leaving the county), with an estimated gain of 32,352. On the other hand, Economic Area 9 lost heavily, the net loss being estimated at 159,805. In the 7¼-year period Economic Area 9 lost through migration 31 percent of its total population in 1950.

Natural increase was also very important in the population changes of both of these areas. In fact, from 1950 to 1957, Jefferson county had 69,002 more births than deaths. This is more than twice as great a gain as that from net migration. Economic Area 9

also had a sizeable natural increase, since there were 77,999 more births than deaths. But this gain, great as it was, was still less than half the loss through net migration.

A more careful look at the data makes clear how astonishing these data on natural increase are.

In 1940-50, Jefferson county had 105,684 births, 52,181 deaths.

In 1940-50, Economic Area 9 had 176,364 births, 36,368 deaths.

In 1950-57, Jefferson county had 107,586 births, 38,584 deaths.

In 1950-57, Economic Area 9 had 101,441 births, 23,442 deaths.

Note that Jefferson county which had 70,680 fewer births than Economic Area 9 in the earlier period had 6,145 more births than Area 9 in the 7¼ years following. Note also that there were nearly 2,000 more births in Jefferson county in the 7¼ years from 1950 to 1957 than in the 10 years from 1940 to 1950. The annual rate of reproductive increase in Jefferson county increased from 1.23 in the earlier period to 1.77 from 1950-57. On the other hand, the annual rate of reproductive increase of Economic Area 9 decreased from 2.75 in the 1940's to 2.28 in the 1950's.

The migration to Jefferson county because of the job opportunities there in industry and commerce is an old, readily understood phenomenon. The movement away from Economic Area 9 is also an old pattern of movement from subsistence farming and coal mining, with its decreasing need for manpower, to better employment opportunities elsewhere.

The changes in natural increase are, however, new and different. Apparently young persons have migrated in such numbers from Eastern Kentucky that the number of births has fallen precipitously. On the other hand, Jefferson county has held the young people it already had and has attracted young persons of child-bearing ages so that the number of births has increased rapidly.

The Future

What of the future? The rate of emigration from Eastern Kentucky was continuing to be heavy as recently as July 1, 1957, and in spite of the economic recession during 1957 and 1958, it is unlikely this rate decreased a great deal. Probably more and more young people will be drawn off, since they make up the majority of migrants; thus the rate of natural increase will fall still more. On the other hand, it is likely that Jefferson county will continue to attract young people and, perhaps even more important, will

(Continued on Page 8)