

SUMMARY

1. During 1947, the population of the U.S. Zone increased 2.0 percent or 350,000,---from 17.38 million to 17.73 million.

a. This increase was relatively low, as compared with 1946, since the transfer of millions of expellees into the U.S. Zone was halted at the beginning of 1947, but relatively high as compared to pre-war increase rates which ranged from 0.5 - 1.0 percent per annum.

b. In contrast to the situation in pre-war years when population increase was almost exclusively the result of an excess of births over deaths, two-thirds of the population increase in 1947 was the result of net migration.

2. Although completely reliable migration statistics are not available, immigration into the U.S. Zone during 1947 is estimated at 442,200. Excluding returned PWs, interzonal immigration formed by far the largest part of the total.

a. Immigrants included 216,000 returned PWs, mostly between the ages of 20 and 40; 70,600 refugees from other zones and Berlin arriving legally; and an estimated 128,400 others whose zone of origin is impossible to determine.

b. The number of those who crossed the border illegally and are now living in the U.S. Zone without ration cards is unknown and these people are not included in the figures of this study.

c. The most important factors contributing to interzonal migration into the U.S. Zone are believed to be the natural attempt of families to reunite and the existing differences in the political and economic conditions between the Soviet Zone and Berlin and the Western Zones.

3. Emigration out of the U.S. Zone during 1947 was estimated at 203,200. Interzonal emigration accounted for 68,000, (including 27,400 released prisoners of war), and DPs repatriated and resettled in foreign countries for 125,200. An additional 10,000, conservatively estimated, left the U.S. Zone as uncontrolled emigration.

a. In 1947, 58,634 DPs were repatriated and 66,547 were resettled. Among those repatriated, Poles were the most numerous.

b. Practical work on the resettlement program, restricted to UNDPs, is still in the initial stage. The only noteworthy program realized in 1947 was the resettlement of 27,550 DPs in Belgium. In addition, 13,128 DPs emigrated to the United States.

c. The pressure of overpopulation and the psychological effects of the political situation in Germany have created a strong interest in emigration among the German population.

4. Although migration statistics are still lacking, the volume of internal migration within the zone was known to be far above normal.

a. Migration from rural areas to the cities and from Bavaria to the two adjacent Laender of the U.S. Zone was chiefly due to changes in the food conditions rendering life in the country less attractive and to changes in the labor market situation increasing the employment possibilities in the cities.

b. Both the extent of refugee migration into the U.S. Zone and the degree of their assimilation into the German economy are reflected in employment figures in Bavaria where employment of refugees increased by 27 percent from March to December 1947 while that of normal residents rose only 4 percent.