
by

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(ABSTRACT)

This study examines the economic performance of Asian immigrants during their first years in the United States. The earnings levels of Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese immigrants entering the U.S. between 1975 and 1979 were compared with the usual earnings patterns of immigrants found in the work of Barry Chiswick. The primary factors influencing the earnings levels of people in different immigrant groups were found to be the transferability of skills and levels of self-selection. These factors are to be expected when using a study framework based on a conventional human capital model. Earnings equations were estimated using 1980 Census data to measure earnings differentials between new Asian immigrants and the native-born. The earnings levels of refugees (Vietnamese) and economic immigrants (Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Korean) were compared to identify differences.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The data utilized in this thesis were made available by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The data were originally collected by the Bureau of Census. Neither the original source or collectors of the data nor the consortium bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family.
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I. INTRODUCTION

The economic success of different immigrant groups in the United States is a continuing phenomenon. At the turn of this century, immigrants from Europe prospered. In the last several decades, Asians have taken the same path.

Part of this success may be due to the continuing growth in the number of Asians admitted to the U.S. since the significant change in the Immigration Law in 1965. This law allows the admission of more immigrants from Asia than Europe. As a result Asian immigrants have grown from five percent of the total U.S. immigrants admitted in 1960 to 34 percent in 1980.1 The share of Asian Americans in the total U.S. population has grown from less than half of a percent in 1960 to three and a half percent in 1980. The major groups of Asian Americans are Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese.2 The Vietnamese, however, have become one of the fastest growing immigrant groups since 1975, after the fall of South Vietnam.


There are vastly different reasons for each of these Asian groups to migrate to the U.S.; some came for economic reasons, others because of political turmoil. In any case, Asian immigrants have consistently proven to be more successful than most other ethnic groups in the U.S. What are the factors that cause one immigrant group to be more economically successful than the others?

Around the turn of this century, millions of people from southern and eastern Europe came seeking a new home in the U.S. Most of them earned barely the subsistent level of living. Yet, in a study by the Immigration Commission to the Congress in 1910, this situation was regarded as "unfair competition" in the labor market. Isaac Hourwich (1912) in a critique of the report explained the cause and effect of the, then, "new" immigrants. His interpretation was that the earnings differentials were due to supply and demand, and skill differentials. Robert Higgs (1971) approached these explanations in a more systematic manner, also in attempt to explain the traditional pattern in which "each new immigrant group came in at the bottom and subsequently

worked its way up." He found that the ability to speak English and being literate in an ethnic group's language highly correlate with earnings level. These factors represented the skill level or skill differentials that Hourwich referred to.

Barry Chiswick (1978) presented an extensive study on the earnings patterns of immigrants the U.S. and worldwide. He set up a framework for analyzing the earnings of immigrants in which skill transferability and self-selection are two main factors determining the level of earnings of different immigrant groups. He divided immigrants into three types: English-speaking economic immigrants, other (non-English-speaking) economic immigrants, and refugees. He concluded that the first type of immigrants has the least earnings disadvantage, followed by the other economic immigrants, and refugees have the greatest earnings disadvantage.

This study will examine the economic performance of Asian immigrants entering the U.S. during 1975 and 1979. It uses the conventional human capital earnings model. Taking into account the traditional pattern, if the phenomenon of Asian immigrant's economic progress persists, any earnings gap between the native-born and new Asian immigrants should

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not be significant. Furthermore, there should not be a significant difference in the earnings of refugees and immigrants within the Asian groups.

This paper begins with a brief history of Asian immigrants in the U.S. and a more detailed discussion of Higgs' and Chiswick's framework for analyzing the immigrants' earnings patterns. The specific model to be used for the empirical analysis of the economic performance of different Asian groups is presented, followed by the results of that analysis. Finally, implications of the findings for earnings patterns of the next generation of these immigrants as well as for the native population will be discussed.
II. BACKGROUND

History of Asian Immigration in the U.S.

Asian immigration to the United States dates back to the mid 1800's, starting with people from mainland China. The Chinese came to the U.S. as laborers during the California gold rush and later in the development of the railroads. They worked longer hours as unskilled workers, and for much less wages than did the natives. The Chinese Exclusion Act, designed to eliminate the growth of these workers, was passed by Congress in 1882 under pressure from organized labor, amended in 1892, and made permanent in 1902.5

Japanese immigration started in 1880's mostly in Hawaii and the West Coast. They worked in sugar plantations. Some established household labor businesses and truck farms. Like the Chinese, as competition in the labor market intensified, Japanese immigrants were restricted by the Gentlemen's Agreement with Japan in 1909. Chinese and Japanese immigration was further reduced by the Immigration

Act of 1924 in which individuals from Northwestern Europe were given first priority.6

As the Chinese and Japanese were barred from U.S. entry, the Filipinos became the third major group of immigrants from Asia in the 1920's. They were excluded from the Asian category since they were considered American citizens during that time. Again, the Filipinos fulfilled the demand for low paid workers until the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, also called the Filipino Exclusion Act of 1934.7

Until the Immigration Act of 1965, Asian immigration to the U.S. was halted by all the exclusion acts. Today, immigration is the most significant contribution to the growth of the numbers of Asian Americans. The 1965 Act, which emphasized family ties and scarce occupational skills, abolished the national origins quota system and increased the annual overall quota for Asia.8 As a result, immigration from countries other than Japan and the Philippines including Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and India, began to increase dramatically. Asian immigrants grow from five

6 Ibid.


8 Ibid.
percent of total U.S. immigrants in 1960 to 34 percent in 1980.

The Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 amended by the Refuge Act of 1980 collectively permitted over 300,000 refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to resettle in the U.S. between 1975 and 1980. The majority of these refugees were from Vietnam. This has contributed to a significant change in the composition of the Asian American population. In 1980, the Vietnamese were ranked the sixth largest group among the Asian American population. By 1985, they were the fourth largest. With the continuing flow of Vietnamese refugees, they are projected to be the third largest Asian American group by 1990.

The Refugee Act of 1980 amends the definition of a refugee that was previously established to be limited to those fleeing from communist countries or the Middle East. Under this law, a refugee is defined as "one who is outside his or her country of nationality (or habitual residence) who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-found fear of persecution on

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account of race, religion, nationality,..." Humanitarian relief is also authorized.\(^{11}\)

While refugees are considered involuntary immigrants, immigrants are individuals who move from one geographical location to another following a decision made in part "on the basis of a hierarchically ordered set of values or values ends..."\(^{12}\) This implies that immigrants decide to migrate based on the economic returns. Therefore, immigrants, except for refugees, are classified here as economic immigrants for analysis purpose. Within the framework of this study, all Asian immigrants (i.e., Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Korean) entering the U.S. between 1975 and 1979 are considered economic immigrants. The Vietnamese are considered refugees.

The Traditional American Immigrant Economic Pattern

The traditional earnings pattern of American immigrants, which is true despite ethnicity, generalizes as "new immigrants come in at the bottom and subsequently work their way up."\(^{13}\) Robert Higgs (1971), in an attempt to modify


\(^{13}\) Higgs, "American Immigrants," p. 421.
Isaac Hourwich's arguments on the economic progress of European immigrants to the U.S. at the turn of this century, concluded that their earnings followed the traditional earnings pattern. Higgs' extended hypothesis was that the earnings level of different immigrant groups arriving in the U.S. during the same time-frame depends on their skills level. The higher the skills level of the ethnic group, the higher is its earnings.

Using data from a U.S. Immigration Commission Report on the new immigrants from Europe in 1911, Higgs theorized that the ability to speak English and to be literate in that ethnic group's language represent the immigrant group's most important skills. Since English is a tool for learning new skills, the ability to speak English opens more opportunities for the new immigrants to acquire higher wages. The literacy level measures basic job skills such as reading. Higgs postulated that the weekly earnings of each ethnic group is dependent on the percentages of immigrants who can speak English, are literate in their own language, and reside in the U.S. for more than five years. This model was estimated using regression techniques for thirty-five European immigrant groups and the results were statistically significant. Higgs further concluded that over time the immigrants would climb up the economic ladder as they gain command of English and acquire U.S. skills.
The Universal Patterns

Barry Chiswick (1978) introduced the motivation for migration as another factor effecting the earnings level. His hypotheses were similar to those made by Higgs in that the level of skills has direct effects on the earnings level of immigrants. Chiswick conducted an extensive study of the economic performance of immigrants from different ethnic groups in different countries and at different times. His findings were that economic immigrants have higher earnings than refugees; immigrants from countries with economic and industrial bases and demographic characteristics (i.e., language, culture) similar to the destination country have the most earnings advantage; and refugees would be unlikely to "catch up" with the earnings of the native-born. Figure 1 below depicts the patterns found by Chiswick.

The framework that Chiswick used to derive those findings included two main factors effecting the economic progress of immigrants: the transferability of skills and the "self-selection" of the immigrants. Self-selection is defined as the "level of innate ability and work motivation" of an individual. These factors have direct affects on the earnings level of immigrants. The higher the transferability of skills and the stronger the self-selection level, the greater is the earnings level.

The transferability of skills refers to the extent to which skills or occupations acquired in the country of
FIGURE 1
Schematic Representation of Earnings Profile by Years since Migration

origin can be readily applied in the U.S. or other destinations. The quality and quantity of schooling represent the productivity or skills level, and international compatibility of schooling represents the skills transferability. Depending on how "country-specific" that schooling is to the U.S., the same schooling level of different immigrants with unsimilar demographics might not have the same productivity in the U.S. labor market. The higher the skills transferability, the greater the earnings level.

The transferability of skills also varied from one immigrant group to the next due to the circumstances of migration. The refugees who had to leave the country of origin in an unexpected and unplanned condition would likely have lower skills transferability. Economic immigrants would likely have more time to prepare for the migration and, therefore, have a higher level of skills transferability. In turn, refugees usually earn less than economic immigrants.

The second factor affecting immigrants' earnings is the self-selection level. Immigrants may possess a higher level of motivation to work for economic achievement than a native person. The higher the level of achievement motivation, or self-selection, the greater the return to a migration investment. Economic immigrants are considered to have a higher level of self-selection because they base their decision to migrate on the prospective economic advancement.
Since refugees migrate for political reasons, they are less likely to be self-selected. The more intense their innate ability and motivation, the faster is the adjustment time for immigrants to catch up with the earnings level of the native-born. Economic immigrants, therefore, reach and exceed the native-born earnings level much sooner than do refugees. This pattern is complete between 11 to 16 years after arrival in the U.S. for the economic immigrants and several decades later or not at all for refugees. In general, the higher the skills transferability and self-selection levels, the greater the earnings level.
III. ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

The two factors influencing the economic progress of immigrants, based on Chiswick's study discussed in Chapter II, are the transferability of skills and self-selection level. The skills transferability of the immigrant groups that are the focus of this study can be examined using the human capital earnings function. Self-selection is captured by the earnings differentials between immigrant groups after the effects of skills transferability on earnings have been taken into account. The following paragraphs discuss the model to be used for analyzing earnings of Asian immigrants.

The Basic Model

The human capital earnings function or the human capital model has become the conventional tool for analysis of earnings and skills level. The model relates the level of income to education and experience as follows:

\[ \ln Y = a + b_1 s + b_2 t - b_3 t^2 + v \]

where:

- \( \ln Y \) = Natural log of income
- \( s \) = years of school attended
- \( t \) = years of experience
- \( t^2 \) = years of experience squared
If work experience \( t \) is continuous and starts immediately after completion of schooling, then experience is equal to current age minus age at completion of schooling or:

\[
t = A - s - B
\]

where:

\[
A = \text{current age}
\]
\[
s = \text{years of schooling}
\]
\[
B = \text{age at which schooling begins}
\]

In accordance with the optimizing behavior, the rate of return to schooling and experience diminishes over the individual's life cycle. This means that income rises with labor market experience but at a decreasing rate. Then, the coefficient of the experience squared \( (t^2) \) is one-half of the rate of diminishing returns to human capital investments.

The human capital model has served as the basic framework for many studies in labor economics. Borjas (1985), Chiswick (1983), and Fujii and Mak (1985) have used the model in their analyses of the economic progress of American Asians and immigrants. Each modified the basic model by adding more explanatory variables for the purpose of the specific study.
The Estimating Equations

The framework of this study is based on the human capital model used by Chiswick (1983). The model summarizes the earnings of immigrants as:

\[ \text{LNINC} = b_1 \text{EDUC} + b_2 \text{EXP} + b_3 \text{EXPSQ} + b_4 \text{LNWWK} \]  

where:

- \( \text{LNINC} \) = Log of annual income in the prior year
- \( \text{EDUC} \) = Years of education completed in the country of origin
- \( \text{EXP} \) = Years of experience obtained or \( \text{Age} - \text{EDUC} - 5 \) (5 = the age at which education began)
- \( \text{EXPSQ} \) = Square of years of experience
- \( \text{LNWWK} \) = Log of weeks worked in the prior year

All variables except for LNWWK are the same as in the basic model. The variable LNWWK was used by Chiswick to measure the correlation between weeks worked and earnings within education and experience levels. Its coefficient \( b_4 \) is the elasticity of annual earnings with respect to the number of weeks worked in the prior year.

The expected signs for the rates of return to education \( b_1 \) and experience \( b_2 \) are positive. These rates represent the rate of transferability of skills. Immigrants who possess more transferable education and experience will have a higher rate of skills transferability. The coefficient \( b_1 \) and \( b_2 \) are expected to be greater for economic immigrants.
than for refugees. The diminishing return to skills transferability term, $b_3$, is expected to be negative. The coefficient $b_4$ can be less than, equal to, or greater than one. When $b_4$ is less than one, it implies a backward bending labor supply curve; the more weeks worked, the less income earned. If $b_4$ is greater than one, the more weeks worked, the higher is the weekly earnings level. It also means that the person probably worked more hours per week because of the incentive of a higher wage rate.

The model is used to test the hypotheses raised in Chapter I. First, for Asian immigrants entering the U.S. between 1975 and 1979, earnings levels do not differ significantly from the native-born. Second, within the Asian immigrant groups, refugees' earnings do not differ much from economic immigrants' earnings. The native-born category refers to U.S. native-born whites and their earnings level represent the average earnings level in the U.S. without immigration or ethnic influences.

When testing for earnings differentials between Asian immigrants and the native-born in a pooled data set, two dummy variables are added to equation (1) as follows:

$$\text{LNINC} = b_1\text{EDUC} + b_2\text{EXP} + b_3\text{EXPSQ} + b_4\ln\text{WWK} + b_5\text{IMMGR} + b_6\text{REFUGE}$$

(2)
where:

\[
\text{IMMGR} = 1, \text{ if the person is an economic immigrant; } 0, \text{ if native-born or refugee}
\]

\[
\text{REFUGE} = 1, \text{ if refugee; } 0, \text{ if economic immigrant or native-born.}
\]

The coefficients of the variables IMMGR and REFUGE are expected to be negative. Being an economic immigrant or refugee reduces an individual's earnings within the combined sample of whites and Asians.

By applying equation (1) to each immigrant group, earnings profiles by ethnic groups can be derived. These profiles allow comparison of earnings level between immigrant groups and the native-born. If there is a significant earnings difference between immigrant groups and the native-born, then the traditional earnings pattern holds for the new immigrants. Furthermore, if the earnings differentials between economic immigrants and refugees are significant, the pattern presented by Chiswick for earlier groups of immigrants also holds for these Asian immigrants. That is, refugees are more economically disadvantaged than economic immigrants.

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of total Asian population. It shows that relatively more Asians are found in the West Coast and the Southern regions and they are found mostly in the West. This implies that regional
TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN POPULATION IN THE U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. REGION</th>
<th>JAPANESE</th>
<th>CHINESE</th>
<th>FILIPINO</th>
<th>KOREAN</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH EAST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46,913</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>217,624</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>77,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CENTRAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46,254</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>74,944</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>80,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>47,631</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>91,415</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>85,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>575,533</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>428,195</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>538,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>716,331</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>812,178</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>781,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

differences might be significant. To detect this variation, the variable SOUTH is added to form the following equation:

\[ \lninc = b_1 \text{EDUC} + b_2 \text{EXP} + b_3 \text{EXPSQ} + b_4 \ln\text{WWK} + b_5 \text{SOUTH} \] (3)

The dummy variable SOUTH is equal to one if the immigrant lives in a southern state (see Appendix A for a listing of states and regions) and zero otherwise. The coefficient \( b_5 \) is expected to be negative. Immigrants earn less in the southern states mainly because they are engaged in lower paying occupations.

The Data

The equations (1) through (3) are estimated using Public-Use Samples of the 1980 Census of U.S. Population. The 5% sample is used for selecting immigrants data and the one-in-one thousand of the 1% sample is used for native-born whites. Individuals in the data set are limited by the following criteria to ensure homogeneity of the data: males between 25 and 64 years of age; if immigrants, year of immigration between 1975 and 1979; weeks worked in 1979 greater than 0; and only non-farm wage and salary earnings. The transferability of skills can only be consistently compared by excluding transfer income, self-employed or farm income, and other types of income. These types of income do not necessarily represent the compensation for weeks worked.
or skills levels. This income criteria was not used by Chiswick.

The sample size of each immigrant group is limited, but the groups are homogenous compared to the total Asian population. Table 2 shows the geographic distribution of the sample of immigrants. The immigrant sample includes 6,131 observations. The native-born sample includes 38,750 observations drawn from the 1/10,000 Census sample.

Mean Values

Table 3 presents mean values for variables to be used in estimations of equations (1) through (3). The Japanese group has the highest average income level, $23,504, which is also higher than the native-born's average income. The other ethnic groups have a lower average income than do the native-born. The Vietnamese average income is unexpectedly higher than the Chinese, Filipino, and Korean. In accordance with Chiswick's immigrant earnings scheme discussed in Chapter II, refugees should have lower income than economic immigrants. The average weeks worked in 1979 is highest for native-born whites. It is not clear whether most of the immigrants included in the sample arrived before 1979 or at some point during 1979. A later arrival time might reduce the number of weeks that immigrants worked in 1979. It is also possible that they spent some time looking for jobs after arrival in the U.S.
### TABLE 2

**DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLE POPULATION IN THE U.S.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. REGION</th>
<th>JAPANESE %</th>
<th>CHINESE %</th>
<th>FILIPINO %</th>
<th>KOREAN %</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORTH EAST</td>
<td>284 38</td>
<td>514 31</td>
<td>181 14</td>
<td>231 23</td>
<td>117 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CENTRAL</td>
<td>52 7</td>
<td>111 7</td>
<td>26 2</td>
<td>63 6</td>
<td>113 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>100 13</td>
<td>268 16</td>
<td>134 10</td>
<td>182 18</td>
<td>510 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>311 42</td>
<td>776 46</td>
<td>973 74</td>
<td>511 53</td>
<td>674 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>747 100</td>
<td>1,669 100</td>
<td>1,314 100</td>
<td>987 100</td>
<td>1,414 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 5% Public-Use Sample.*
### TABLE 3

Mean Values of Variables in the Human Capital Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>JAPANESE</th>
<th>CHINESE</th>
<th>FILIPINO</th>
<th>KOREAN</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
<th>NATIVE-BORN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td>23504</td>
<td>8937</td>
<td>10200</td>
<td>9998</td>
<td>10598</td>
<td>17078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKSWK</td>
<td>46.52</td>
<td>40.96</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>42.03</td>
<td>42.49</td>
<td>48.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td>34.52</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>36.96</td>
<td>37.64</td>
<td>39.94</td>
<td>41.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>17.804</td>
<td>15.07</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16.195</td>
<td>14.907</td>
<td>15.129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPSQ</td>
<td>187.97</td>
<td>437.392</td>
<td>391.06</td>
<td>366.586</td>
<td>362.482</td>
<td>597.634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNWK</td>
<td>3.774</td>
<td>3.599</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>3.628</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>3.829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE SIZE</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>1779</td>
<td>1348</td>
<td>1133</td>
<td>1459</td>
<td>38750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: For immigrants, 5% Public-Use Sample. For the native-born, 1/10,000 Sample.
Estimating equations (1) through (3) using the sample data selected will give a better understanding of how well each ethnic group performs relative to their levels of skills transferability and self-selection.
IV. ANALYSIS OF EMPIRICAL RESULTS

The human capital equations were estimated using ordinary least squares (OLS). Overall, the regression results are statistically significant except for some coefficients which will be discussed individually in the paragraphs below. T-statistics (in parentheses) indicate that the estimated coefficients are significant at a 5% level. The signs of the coefficients are consistent with the theoretical framework. The regression coefficients ($R^2$) are also significant. Independent variables do not appear linearly dependent, except for the labor market experience variables EXP and EXPSQ. Table 4 represents the correlation matrix of the variables from regressions. This matrix is about the same as those for the other equations.

Comparison with Native-Born Whites

Table 5 summarizes the regression results for equation (1). Equation (1) analyzes the earnings and skills level of all Asian immigrants and native-born whites to determine if there is a large income gap between new immigrants and the native-born. The intercept of each regression for the immigrants is higher than for the native-born. However, the estimated coefficients indicate that immigrants have returns
### TABLE 4
CORRELATION MATRIX OF REGRESSION RESULTS IN TABLE 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>INTERCEPT</th>
<th>EDUC</th>
<th>EXP</th>
<th>EXPSQ</th>
<th>LNAWK</th>
<th>REFUGE</th>
<th>IMMGR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERCEPT</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-0.479</td>
<td>-0.2274</td>
<td>0.1303</td>
<td>-0.7999</td>
<td>-0.1266</td>
<td>-0.1627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>-0.4759</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.124</td>
<td>0.0088</td>
<td>-0.0637</td>
<td>0.0444</td>
<td>0.0437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
<td>-0.2274</td>
<td>0.124</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-0.9597</td>
<td>-0.1043</td>
<td>0.0078</td>
<td>0.0761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPSQ</td>
<td>0.1303</td>
<td>0.0088</td>
<td>-0.9597</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1035</td>
<td>0.0163</td>
<td>-0.0482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNAWK</td>
<td>-0.7999</td>
<td>-0.0637</td>
<td>-0.1043</td>
<td>0.1035</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0901</td>
<td>0.1418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFUGE</td>
<td>-0.1266</td>
<td>0.0444</td>
<td>0.0078</td>
<td>0.0163</td>
<td>0.0901</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMGR</td>
<td>-0.1627</td>
<td>-0.0437</td>
<td>0.0761</td>
<td>-0.0482</td>
<td>0.1418</td>
<td>0.0865</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 5

**COMPARISON OF EARNINGS BETWEEN ASIAN IMMIGRANTS AND NATIVE-BORN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>ALL ASIANS</th>
<th>NATIVE-BORN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERCEPT</td>
<td>4.125</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(52.206)</td>
<td>(84.655)</td>
<td>(101.957)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>0.0367</td>
<td>0.068</td>
<td>0.062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(13.925)</td>
<td>(53.118)</td>
<td>(54.412)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>0.044</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(13.600)</td>
<td>(36.6)</td>
<td>(38.831)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPSQ</td>
<td>-0.0008</td>
<td>-0.0007</td>
<td>-0.0007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(12.984)</td>
<td>(28.13)</td>
<td>(30.561)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNW WK</td>
<td>1.098</td>
<td>1.133</td>
<td>1.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(67.359)</td>
<td>(112.53)</td>
<td>(132.329)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.258)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFUGE</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-0.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(18.172)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMGR</td>
<td>0.0177</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-0.344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.766)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(3.682)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Size</td>
<td>6152</td>
<td>35144</td>
<td>41327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-SQ</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to education and labor market experience that was obtained in their native Asian countries. The elasticity of income with respect to weeks worked is slightly greater than one for all groups.

In the pooled regression, equation (2), Table 5 column 3, the coefficients of variables for immigration status (IMMGR and REFUGE) are significant and fairly large. That is, being an immigrant, whether an economic immigrant or a refugee, reduces an individual's earnings relative to the U.S. average. By comparing the earnings of only the economic immigrants and refugees, column 1, the coefficient for being an economic immigrant (IMMGR) is small and statistically insignificant.

Comparison Between Immigrant Groups

The analysis discussed above does not provide a clear picture of how each immigrant group performs economically compared to the native-born. Table 6 presents the estimated earnings functions by ethnic group. The results indicate that the Japanese have the highest rates of return to education and experience within the immigrant groups. The return rate to education is lower than for the native-born. Surprisingly, this group's experience coefficient is higher than the native-born's. This means that the Japanese have more transferable job experience than the other Asian immigrant groups. Other studies have determined that
### TABLE 6

**COMPARISON OF EARNINGS BY ETHNIC GROUPS IN ALL U.S. REGIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>JAPANESE</th>
<th>CHINESE</th>
<th>FILIPINO</th>
<th>KOREAN</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
<th>NATIVE-BORN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERCEPT</td>
<td>4.38</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(13.775)</td>
<td>(29.679)</td>
<td>(31.105)</td>
<td>(22.463)</td>
<td>(30.68)</td>
<td>(84.655)</td>
<td>(101.957)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>0.044</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.068</td>
<td>0.062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4.332)</td>
<td>(7.07)</td>
<td>(6.223)</td>
<td>(1.425)</td>
<td>(5.625)</td>
<td>(53.118)</td>
<td>(54.412)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
<td>0.083</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.044</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.044</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6.909)</td>
<td>(6.178)</td>
<td>(5.526)</td>
<td>(5.314)</td>
<td>(2.141)</td>
<td>(36.6)</td>
<td>(38.831)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPSQ</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.0006</td>
<td>-0.0006</td>
<td>-0.0009</td>
<td>-0.0003</td>
<td>-0.0007</td>
<td>-0.0007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2.822)</td>
<td>(5.849)</td>
<td>(5.496)</td>
<td>(5.174)</td>
<td>(2.557)</td>
<td>(28.13)</td>
<td>(30.561)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNWAK</td>
<td>1.006</td>
<td>1.064</td>
<td>0.936</td>
<td>1.054</td>
<td>1.204</td>
<td>1.133</td>
<td>1.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFUGE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-0.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(18.172)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMGR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-0.344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(3.682)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE SIZE</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>1683</td>
<td>1321</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>1424</td>
<td>35144</td>
<td>41327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-SQ</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Filipinos have the lowest earnings level of all Asian groups. However, in this comparison, they appear to have relatively high earnings level. The Vietnamese have approximately the same return rate of education as the Chinese and Filipinos. The Koreans have the same experience coefficient as the native-born. The weeks worked-income elasticity is close to unity across the groups. It is highest for the Vietnamese and lowest for the Chinese.

When controlling for regional differences, the coefficient of variable SOUTH is inconsistent across ethnic groups and statistically insignificant, as shown in Table 7. Since there are relatively more Asians on the West Coast (see Table 2) it is necessary to examine further the possibility of regional differentials in the earnings level of immigrant groups. Therefore, equation (1) is estimated for two sets of data, the Western and Southern regions.

The estimated earnings profiles of the economic immigrants (Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Korean) and the refugees (Vietnamese) in the Southern region are shown in Table 8. Except for the Japanese, education and labor experience effect the earnings levels of immigrant groups differently in the southern states. The Japanese maintain the highest rates of return to education and experience, so their skills transferability level is high in this region.

### TABLE 7

**COMPARISON OF EARNINGS BY ETHNIC GROUPS IN ALL U.S. REGIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>JAPANESE</th>
<th>CHINESE</th>
<th>FILIPINO</th>
<th>KOREAN</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERCEPT</td>
<td>4.376</td>
<td>4.249</td>
<td>4.793</td>
<td>4.667</td>
<td>4.112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(13.710)</td>
<td>(29.611)</td>
<td>(31.073)</td>
<td>(22.507)</td>
<td>(30.595)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4.339)</td>
<td>(6.928)</td>
<td>(6.197)</td>
<td>(1.317)</td>
<td>(5.594)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
<td>0.081</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.046</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6.694)</td>
<td>(6.149)</td>
<td>(5.477)</td>
<td>(5.484)</td>
<td>(2.112)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPSQ</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.0006</td>
<td>-0.0006</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.0003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2.648)</td>
<td>(5.830)</td>
<td>(5.464)</td>
<td>(5.343)</td>
<td>(2.555)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNWK</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.064</td>
<td>0.937</td>
<td>1.049</td>
<td>1.203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(15.681)</td>
<td>(33.841)</td>
<td>(31.597)</td>
<td>(25.947)</td>
<td>(42.229)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>-0.072</td>
<td>1.064</td>
<td>-0.046</td>
<td>-0.07</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.888)</td>
<td>(.240)</td>
<td>(.810)</td>
<td>(1.138)</td>
<td>(.119)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE SIZE</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>1676</td>
<td>1317</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R·SQ</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VARIABLE</td>
<td>JAPANESE</td>
<td>CHINESE</td>
<td>FILIPINO</td>
<td>KOREAN</td>
<td>VIETNAMESE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERCEPT</td>
<td>3.397</td>
<td>3.808</td>
<td>6.123</td>
<td>4.291</td>
<td>4.513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.073)</td>
<td>(2.216)</td>
<td>(1.309)</td>
<td>(1.664)</td>
<td>(2.310)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
<td>0.074</td>
<td>0.069</td>
<td>0.041</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2.407)</td>
<td>(5.020)</td>
<td>(2.896)</td>
<td>(1.557)</td>
<td>(.862)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP SQ</td>
<td>-0.0006</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
<td>-0.0005</td>
<td>-0.0003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.700)</td>
<td>(4.232)</td>
<td>(3.083)</td>
<td>(1.107)</td>
<td>(1.691)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LN WK</td>
<td>1.294</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.615</td>
<td>1.047</td>
<td>1.153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(6.00)</td>
<td>(13.571)</td>
<td>(7.705)</td>
<td>(11.709)</td>
<td>(22.815)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE SIZE</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-SQ</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While the rate of return to education for the Koreans is lowest using the total sample data (national), it is higher than the others in the South. The Chinese show an increase in the return rate to experience. The opposite is true for the Vietnamese. They show the lowest overall skills transferability level in the Southern region.

Table 9 provides the earnings profiles of immigrant groups in the Western region. The estimated coefficients for all variables in the earnings of the Japanese equation are about the same as in the South. The rate of return to education is lowest for the Koreans. The rates of return to both education and experience for the Chinese, Filipinos and Vietnamese are the same as in the national regression. It is apparent that there is no consistent pattern of regional differences in the effects of education and experience level on the immigrants' earnings levels when comparing between the Western and Southern regions.
### TABLE 9

**COMPARISON OF EARNINGS OF ASIAN IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN THE WESTERN REGION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>JAPANESE</th>
<th>CHINESE</th>
<th>FILIPINO</th>
<th>KOREAN</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERCEPT</td>
<td>4.571</td>
<td>4.403</td>
<td>4.765</td>
<td>4.991</td>
<td>4.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.00001</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2.976)</td>
<td>(4.963)</td>
<td>(4.301)</td>
<td>(.001)</td>
<td>(4.513)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
<td>0.073</td>
<td>0.024</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.870)</td>
<td>(3.230)</td>
<td>(5.463)</td>
<td>(4.304)</td>
<td>(1.035)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPSQ</td>
<td>-0.0007</td>
<td>-0.0005</td>
<td>-0.0007</td>
<td>-0.0011</td>
<td>-0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.359)</td>
<td>(3.434)</td>
<td>(5.365)</td>
<td>(4.384)</td>
<td>(.841)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNNUK</td>
<td>0.931</td>
<td>1.039</td>
<td>0.953</td>
<td>0.997</td>
<td>1.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9.009)</td>
<td>(22.262)</td>
<td>(27.805)</td>
<td>(16.861)</td>
<td>(30.181)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE SIZE</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-SQ</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. INTERPRETATION OF REGRESSION RESULTS

The regression analyses indicate that the traditional earnings pattern of U.S. immigrants is consistent for all Asian immigrant groups except the Japanese. The rate of return to human capital seems higher for the Japanese than for the native-born. Also, Japanese immigrants have significantly higher income than the native-born. Their earnings profiles exceed the earnings profile of the economic immigrants suggested by Chiswick. There is an earnings gap between the native-born and the other immigrant groups, the Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese. The rate of return to human capital is lower for these groups compared to the native-born. This may be due partly to language problems and different professional standards in the U.S. Their earnings profile are consistent with the traditional pattern and Chiswick's immigrants' earnings scheme.

It is apparent that the economic immigrant group with more transferable skills has higher earnings. In this case, the Japanese have a high level of transferability of skills. They migrated from Japan, which is an industrial country with the level of technology and economy similar to the U.S. As mentioned before, these characteristics increase the transferability of skills and increase the earnings potential of that immigrant group.
The Chinese, Filipinos, and Koreans have lower earnings levels than the Japanese, even though they are also economic immigrants. They came from developing countries which have different economic and technology bases than the U.S. and Japan. The lower rates of return to education and experience obtained from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, or Korea indicate that their skills are not as transferable as those of the Japanese.

The Vietnamese have relatively the same earnings level as the Chinese, Filipinos, and Koreans. Their earnings profile is not consistent with the earnings scheme that Chiswick developed. He argued that refugees have much lower earnings levels than economic immigrants. This stemmed from either low levels of skills transferability and self-selection or work motivation.

The Vietnamese refugees have relatively low skills transferability but apparently have a high work motivation level (note the relatively high coefficients they exhibit for the weeks worked variables). This high work motivation level contributes to a higher average income than expected. These refugees may initially have had no expectation for economic advancement. Once settled in the U.S., they quickly became more self-selected. They also became more willing to acquire new skills to compensate for their low skills transferability. The greater their innate ability and motivation, the faster they would be able to achieve
income equality with the economic immigrants and eventually with the native-born.
VI. IMPLICATIONS OF RESULTS

The new Asian immigrants show a potential for quick economic adjustment in the U.S. The Japanese have already exceeded the average earnings level. This implies that their adjustment to U.S. labor market may be complete sooner than the historical adjustment period. The quicker the immigrants reach income equality with the native-borne, the less their migration impacts the average level of income of the total population.

As the Asian immigrants gain higher skill levels, they become even more motivated toward a higher economic success. This contributes to a continually growing phenomenon of economic success by Asian Americans. They also ensure that their children will be as successful in the future. Asian parents put much pressure on their children to work as hard in school as they do in their work. This has been evidenced by the remarkable academic achievement of students from the Asian groups in recent years.15

Since 1980, a "second wave" of Vietnamese refugees has arrived in the U.S. They are distinguished from the refugees arriving between 1975 and 1979 for their lower education and experience levels. A large percentage of

these refugees are less literate. They were mostly farmers, fishermen and laborers in Vietnam. There has been concern that this "second wave" of refugees will become an economic burden of the U.S.

The Refugee Act of 1980 requires the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide resources for employment and training as well as job placement for newly arrived refugees. Since 1980, refugees undergo English and job training in the refugee camps in the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia while awaiting for admission into the U.S. The results of this study indicate that the earlier refugees have a high self-selection level which compensates for their low skills level. If the "second-wave" group is as strongly motivated, they will likely be as willing to learn new skills that are productive in the U.S. The orientation process constituted by the 1980 Refugee Act will increase the skills level of the refugees prior to entering the U.S. Then, the percentage of refugees receiving income from public assistance programs will be limited.

VII. SUMMARY

This study focussed on the economic performance of Asian immigrants entering the U.S. between 1975 and 1979. It compared the earnings levels of these new immigrants with the traditional earnings pattern of U.S. immigrants using the framework established by Chiswick. The analysis was based on applying the human capital model to 1980 Census data.

The results indicate that all Asian groups, except for the Japanese, have lower earnings profiles than the native-born. Immigrants from countries without geographic characteristics like the U.S., such as the Philippines, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Vietnam, have a significantly lower level of skills transferability. The Japanese have a high level of skills transferability and strong self-selection. Therefore, their earnings levels exceed the average of those who are native-born.

For the economic immigrants, excluding the Japanese, earnings levels are relatively the same across the ethnic groups. The Filipinos, as documented in various works in the literature, have had the lowest earnings level among the Asian. In this study, they appeared to perform at about the same level as the Chinese and Korean.

The analysis concluded that Vietnamese refugees have had the same earnings levels as economic immigrants. This
was interpreted as showing that they have a high level of self-selection which compensates for their low level of skills transferability.

The result of a Gallup poll conducted in 1975 on the decision to accept Southeast Asian refugees showed that 54 percent of the American public was against the decision and 36 percent was favorable. There was a fear of negative impacts of refugees on the U.S. economy. However, in his remarks to the Advisory Committee on Refugees in 1975, President Ford said "the people that we are welcoming today (Indochinese refugees) are individuals who can contribute significantly to our society in the future...we are a country built by immigrants...and we have always been a humanitarian nation."¹⁷ The results of this study indicated that former President Ford made the right economic as well as moral decision.

APPENDIX A

The selection of sample data used in the regression analysis involved the following steps:

- For the Asian immigrants:
  1. Retrieval, by state, of data tape which contain the 5% sample (Sample A). If the race of the individual is either Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, or Vietnamese, data is extracted based on the four criteria set in the framework of this study. The four criteria include: male, year of immigration between 1975 and 1979, age between 25 and 64, and number of weeks worked in 1979 not zero. Only states with high Asian population were selected. Those states are listed in Table A-1 by U.S. Census regions. Figure A-1 shows how data were originally collected by the Bureau of Census.

  2. State sample data extracted in step 1 are then combined into four regional data sets: Northeast, North Central, South, and West.
For the native-born whites, the 1/10,000 sample of total U.S. population (Sample B) was used. The data were extracted based on three criteria: male, age between 25 and 64, and number of weeks worked in 1979 greater than zero.
TABLE A-1

STATES INCLUDED IN THE SAMPLE DATA
BY REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Region</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N. Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S. Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
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<td>West</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please fill out this official Census Form and mail it back on Census Day, Tuesday, April 1, 1980

Your answers are confidential
By law (Title 13, U.S. Code), census employees are subject to fine and/or imprisonment for any disclosure of your answers. Only after 72 years does your information become available to other government agencies or the public. The same law requires that you answer the questions to the best of your knowledge.

Para personas de habla hispana
(For Spanish-speaking persons)
SI LISTADO DESEA UN CUESTIONARIO DEL CENSO EN ESPAÑOL llame a la oficina del censo. El número de teléfono se encuentra en el encarátulo de la dirección.
O. si prefiere, marque esta casilla □ y devuelva el cuestionario por correo en el sobre que se le incluye.

A message from the Director,
Bureau of the Census...

We must, from time to time, take stock of ourselves as a people if our Nation is to meet successfully the many national and local challenges we face. This is the purpose of the 1980 census.

The essential need for a population census was recognized almost 200 years ago when our Constitution was written. As provided by article I, the first census was conducted in 1790 and one has been taken every 10 years since then.

The law under which the census is taken protects the confidentiality of your answers. For the next 72 years — or until April 1, 2052 — only sworn census workers have access to the individual records, and no one else may see them.

Your answers, when combined with the answers from other people, will provide the statistical figures needed by public and private groups, schools, business and industry, and Federal, State, and local governments across the country. These figures will help all sectors of American society understand how our population and housing are changing in this way, we can deal more effectively with today's problems and work toward a better future for all of us.

The census is a vitally important national activity. Please do your part by filling out this census form accurately and completely. If you mail it back promptly in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, it will save the expense and inconvenience of a census taker having to visit you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

FIGURE A-1
SAMPLE OF THE 1980 CENSUS FORM

How to fill out your Census Form

See the filled-out example in the yellow instruction guide. This guide will help with any problems you may have.

If you need more help, call the Census Office. The telephone number of the local office is shown at the bottom of the address box on the front cover.

Use a black pencil to answer the questions. Black pencil is better to use than ballpoint or other pens.

Fill circles "O" completely, like this ␠.

When you write in an answer, print or write clearly.

Make sure that answers are provided for everyone here.

See page 4 of the guide if a roomer or someone else in the household does not want to give you all the information for the form.

Answer the questions on pages 1 through 5. Then starting with pages 6 and 7, fill a pair of pages for each person in the household.

Check your answers. Then write your name, the date, and telephone number on page 20.

Mail back this form on Tuesday, April 1, or as soon afterward as you can. Use the enclosed envelope; no stamp is needed.

Please start by answering Question 1 below.

Question 1

List in Question 1

• Family members living here, including babies still in the hospital
• Relatives living here
• Lodgers or boarders living here
• Other persons living here
• College students who stay here while attending college, even if their parents live elsewhere
• Persons who usually live here but are temporarily away (including children in boarding school below college level)
• Persons with a home elsewhere but who stay here most of the week while working

Do Not List in Question 1

• Any person away from here in the Armed Forces
• Any college student who stays somewhere else while attending college
• Any person who usually stays somewhere else most of the week while working there
• Any person away from here in an institution such as a home for the aged or mental hospital
• Any person staying or visiting here who has a usual home elsewhere

1. What is the name of each person who was living here on Tuesday, April 1, 1980, or who was staying or visiting here and had no other home?

Note

If everyone here is staying only temporarily and has a usual home elsewhere, please mark this box ☐.

Then please:
• answer the questions on pages 2 through 5 only.
• enter the address of your usual home on page 20.

Please continue →

FIGURE A-1 (CONTINUED)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON in column 1</th>
<th>PERSON in column 2</th>
<th>PERSON in column 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2. How is this person related to the person in column 1?
   Fill one circle.
   If "Other relative" of person in column 1, give exact relationship, such as mother-in-law,
   niece, grandson, etc.

3. Sex
   Fill one circle.

4. Is this person
   Fill one circle.

5. Age, and month and year of birth
   a. Print age at last birthday.
   b. Print month and fill one circle.
   c. Print year in the spaces, and fill one circle below each number.

6. Marital status
   Fill one circle.

7. Is this person of Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent?
   Fill one circle.

8. Since February 1, 1980 has this person attended regular school or college at any time?
   Fill one circle. Count nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school and schooling which
   leads to a high school diploma or college degree.

9. What is the highest grade (or year) of regular school this person has ever attended?
   Fill one circle.

10. Did this person finish the highest grade (or year) attended?
    Fill one circle.

---

**FIGURE A-1 (CONTINUED)**
### Answer these questions for

#### 11. In what State or foreign country was this person born?
- Birthplace of person before April 1, 1965: 
  - Yes
  - No

#### 12. Is this person a naturalized citizen of the United States?
- Yes
- No

#### 13a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?
- Yes
- No

#### 14. What is this person's ancestry, if uncertain about how to report ancestry, see instruction guide.

#### 15a. Did this person live in the house five years ago (April 1, 1975)?
- Yes
- No

#### 16. When was this person born?
- Born before April 1, 1965
- Born after April 1, 1965

#### 17. In April 1975, was this person:
- On active duty in the Armed Forces?
  - Yes
  - No

#### 18a. Is this a veteran of active duty military service in the Armed Forces of the United States?
- Yes
- No

#### 19. Does this person have a physical, mental, or other health condition which has lasted for 6 or more months and which...

#### 20. If this person is a female...

#### 21. If this person has ever been married...
- Yes
- No

#### 22a. Did this person work at any time last week?
- Yes
- No

#### 23. At what location did this person work last week?
- Address (Number and street): 
- City, town, village, etc.: 
- State: 
- ZIP Code: 

#### 24a. Last week, how long did this person usually get to work?
- Minutes

---

**Figure A-1 (continued)**
PERSON 1 ON PAGE 2

c. When going to work last week, did this person usually —
   ■ Drive alone — Skip to 29
   ■ Drive others only
   ■ Share driving — Ride as passenger only

  2. Yes
  3. No

  After answering 2b, skip to 29

23. Was this person temporarily absent or on layoff from a job or
   business last week?
   ■ Yes, on layoff
   ■ No

26a. Has this person been looking for work during the last 4 weeks?
   ■ Yes
   ■ No — Skip to 27

27. When did this person last work, even for a few days?
   ■ 1960
   ■ 1970
   ■ 1975 or earlier
   ■ Never worked

28. Current or most recent job activity
   Describe clearly this person's chief job activity or business last week.
   If this person had more than one job, describe the one of which
   this person worked the most hours.
   If this person had no job or business last week, give information
   for the last job or business since 1975.

29. Industry
   a. For whom did this person work?
      If now on active duty in the Armed Forces, print "AF" and skip to question 31.

   b. What kind of business or industry was this?
      Describe the activity or location where employed.

   (For example: Hospital, newspaper publishing, meat packing house,
   auto engine manufacturing, breakfast cereal manufacturing)

   c. Is this main work — (Fill one circle)
      ■ Manufacturing
      ■ Retail trade
      ■ Wholesale trade
      ■ Other — Agriculture, construction, service, government, etc.

30. Occupation
   a. What kind of work was this person doing?
      (For example: Registered nurse, personnel manager, supervisor
      of order department, gas station manager, printer)

   b. What were this person's most important activities or duties?
      (For example: Directing another worker, keeping records, paying
      order clerks, assembling engines, operating grinding mill)

31a. Last year (1979), did this person work, even for a few days,
   at a paid job or in a business or farm?

   Yes ■ No — Skip to 31d

31b. How many weeks did this person work in 1979?

   ■ Count paid vacation, paid sick leave, and military service.

   ■ Weeks

31c. During the weeks worked in 1979, how many hours did
   this person usually work each week?

   ■ Hours

31d. Of the weeks not worked in 1979 (if any), how many weeks
   was this person looking for work or on layoff from a job?

   ■ Weeks

32. Income in 1979 — Fill circles and print dollar amounts.
   If net income was a loss, write "Loss" above the dollar amount.
   If exact amount is not known, give best estimate. For income
   received jointly by household members, use instruction guide.

   During 1979 did this person receive any income from the
   following sources?

   a. Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from
      all jobs — Report amount before deductions for taxes, bonds,
      dues, or other items.

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

   b. Own nonfarm business, partnership, or professional
      practice — Report net income after business expenses.

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

   c. Own farm — Report net income after operating expenses. Include earnings
      as tenant farmer or sharecropper.

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

   d. Interest, dividends, royalties, or net rental income.
      Report even small amounts credited to an account.

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

   e. Social Security or Railroad Retirement

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

   f. Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Aid to Families with
      Dependent Children (AFDC), or other public assistance
      or public welfare payments.

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

   g. Unemployment compensation, veterans payments, pensions, alimony or child
      support, or any other sources of income received regularly.
      Exclude lump-sum payments such as money from an inheritance
      or the sale of a home.

   Yes ■ $ 00
   No — (Annual amount — Dollars)

32a. What was this person's total income in 1979?

4. Add entries in questions 32b through 32g, subtract any losses.

   (Annual amount — Dollars)

32b. If total amount was a loss, write "Loss" above amount.

   OR None

Please turn to the next page and answer the questions for Person 2 on page 2

Questions 11-33 presented 6 more times for other
household members in actual long forms.

FIGURE A-1 (CONTINUED)
REFERENCES


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