

This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: Migration and Business Cycles

Volume Author/Editor: Harry Jerome

Volume Publisher: NBER

Volume ISBN: 0-87014-008-6

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/jero26-1>

Publication Date: 1926

Chapter Title: Cyclical Fluctuations of Selected Elements in Migration

Chapter Author: Harry Jerome

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c5271>

Chapter pages in book: (p. 137 - 152)

CHAPTER VII

CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS OF SELECTED ELEMENTS IN MIGRATION

The evidence presented in the preceding chapters indicates a pronounced tendency for cyclical fluctuations in immigration to, and emigration from, the United States to be determined primarily by cyclical fluctuations in industrial activity in this country. The nature of this relationship may be made clearer by comparing the cyclical movements of selected elements in migration.

For this purpose we shall make comparisons between immigrants and nonimmigrants, males and females, and laborers and other occupational groups.

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY MIGRATION

Immigrants and Nonimmigrants.

The official statistics, as we have previously noted, distinguish between alien immigrants and alien nonimmigrants, the latter comprising aliens entering the United States for a temporary stay or returning here after a temporary sojourn abroad. Most of the popular and scientific discussion of immigration problems deals solely with the relatively permanent "immigrant" group. To the extent that the nonimmigrant group is made up of tourists and other persons not seeking employment we should expect it to show less responsiveness to cyclical changes than the "immigrant" group proper; but, on the other hand, if we could segregate those nonimmigrants who, despite a declared intention of temporary sojourn, enter for purposes of employment, we should expect the fluctuations of this working element to show, particularly as to the exodus during depression periods, even greater sensitiveness to cyclical conditions than the more permanent migration.

Prior to the present century, the recorded number of arriving aliens other than those listed as immigrants was relatively small. In the nineteenth century, the number of recorded alien nonimmigrants never exceeded fifty thousand and exceeded ten per cent

of the total number of arriving aliens only in the depression years ending June 30, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1894.

The ratio of nonimmigrants to total aliens, in the years ending June 30, 1900 to 1924, is given in Table 35. Two features of this

TABLE 35.—RATIO OF NONIMMIGRANTS TO TOTAL ARRIVING ALIENS:
1900-1924^a

Years ending June 30

YEAR	PERCENTAGE RATIO	YEAR	PERCENTAGE RATIO	YEAR	PERCENTAGE RATIO
1900	5.4 ^b	1909	20.4	1917	18.6
1901	5.8	1910	13.1	1918	47.8
1902	4.4	1911	14.7	1919	40.5
1903	3.2	1912	17.6	1920	30.8
1904	3.3	1913	16.1	1921	17.7
1905	3.8	1914	13.2	1922	28.4
1906	5.6	1915	24.8	1923	22.3
1907	10.6	1916	18.5	1924	19.6
1908	15.3				

^aComputed from data given in the annual reports of the U. S. Commissioner General of Immigration and in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. See Table 36 for 1905-1924.

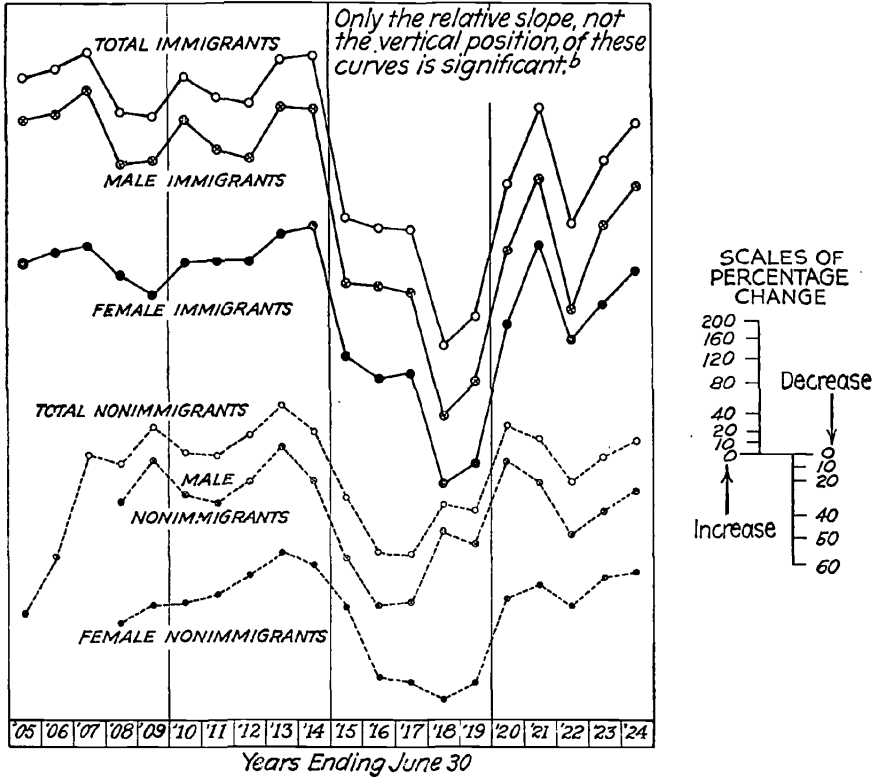
^bFor some of the years from 1900 to 1905, two sets of figures have been published for the number of non-immigrants, and the figures here used are the lower of the two sets, selected because they appeared more consistent from year to year. Hence it is not safe to conclude that the ratio of nonimmigrants to immigrants actually increased after 1906 to the extent suggested by the data in this table.

ratio are noteworthy. First, in the last two decades the proportion of recorded nonimmigrants to total arrivals substantially increased, even before the war; and secondly, the ratio is relatively high in and immediately following depression years, and also in the war years, suggesting that war and depression both tend to exercise a greater check on the flow of immigrants than of nonimmigrants.

In the depression year 1908 (fiscal), for example, the number of immigrants declined 39.1 per cent, as compared with a decline of only 7.4 per cent in the number of nonimmigrants. On the other hand, the number of nonimmigrants declined more than the number of immigrants in 1914, but in 1922 the latter movement again exhibited the greater sensitiveness to industrial depression. Taken as a whole, therefore, the nonimmigrant group seems to be less sensitive to cyclical changes than the immigrant element. These tentative conclusions may be verified by reference to Chart 27, which appears on page 139 and shows the relative fluctuations in the number of male and female immigrants and nonimmigrants, respectively, in the years 1905 to 1924, inclusive.

CHART 27

RELATIVE FLUCTUATIONS IN NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS AND NON-IMMIGRANTS, CLASSIFIED BY SEX: 1905-1924.



^aNumerical data in Table 36.

^bAll of the curves shown in the above chart have been plotted to the same ratio scale, so that equal vertical distances measured upward indicate the same percentage increase; and equal distances measured downward, the same percentage decrease, as shown by the Scales of Percentage Change accompanying the chart. But, to avoid confusing recrossing, each curve has a different base line; hence in interpreting this chart only the slope, or vertical change, and not the vertical position of a curve, should be considered.

Method of Charting.

The method of charting used in Chart 27 may not be familiar to the reader, and as there are several charts in this and the following chapter which are similar in principle a few words of explanation are pertinent. These are so-called "ratio" or "rate-of-change" charts, with a logarithmic vertical scale and also with a different

base line for each curve. The effect of the "ratio" scale is that the relative amount of increase or decrease in any year-to-year change is graphically represented by the relative slope of the connecting lines, that is, by the vertical change from one year to the next. If, for example, two series experience the same percentage decline, the slope of the two curves will be the same. A large percentage decline

TABLE 36.—NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS AND NONIMMIGRANTS, BY SEX, 1905-1924*

Thousands of persons

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30	IMMIGRANTS			NONIMMIGRANTS		
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
1905	1,026	725	302	41
1906	1,101	764	336	66
1907	1,285	930	355	153
1908	783	507	276	142	103	38
1909	752	520	232	192	148	44
1910	1,042	736	306	156	111	45
1911	879	570	309	152	103	48
1912	838	530	308	179	123	56
1913	1,198	808	390	229	162	68
1914	1,218	799	420	185	123	61
1915	327	187	140	108	65	43
1916	299	182	117	68	44	24
1917	295	174	121	67	45	23
1918	111	62	49	101	81	20
1919	141	83	58	96	73	23
1920	430	248	182	192	145	46
1921	805	449	356	173	121	52
1922	310	150	160	123	79	44
1923	523	308	215	150	96	55
1924	707	423	284	172	114	58

*From the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1921, p. 103, and the annual reports of the U. S. Commissioner General of Immigration.

is shown by a sharp drop; a small percentage decline, by a slight drop. Hence the relative variability of the series represented can be approximated visually by comparison of the shapes of the curves. The steadier the series represented, the less the curve deviates from a straight line or smooth curve. To facilitate an approximation of the percentage change in any year, scales for percentage increases and decreases are given at the right of the chart.

Also, although all the curves are drawn to the same scale, to avoid confusing crossing of the lines each curve has been plotted from a

separate base line. The result is that the curves are more conveniently placed for use in comparing the degree of year-to-year change but the vertical position of a curve ceases to be significant and the numerical amounts represented by a given point thereon cannot be read from the chart. This type of chart is appropriate for the one purpose for which it is here used—as a visual aid to the comparison of year-to-year changes—but care should be taken to avoid the errors of interpretation which may arise if the limitations of this form of chart are overlooked.

Emigrants and Nonemigrants.

There is no marked difference in the degree to which the cyclical movements of the number of emigrants and of nonemigrants are affected by employment conditions.¹ One bit of evidence leading to this conclusion is afforded by the data in Table 37, showing the ratio of nonemigrants to total departing aliens in each of the calendar years, 1908 to 1924.

TABLE 37.—RATIO OF NONEMIGRANTS TO TOTAL ALIENS DEPARTED:
1908-1924^a

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH	ALIENS DEPARTED		PERCENTAGE RATIO
	TOTAL	NONEMIGRANT	
1908	714,828	319,755	44.7
1909	400,392	174,590	43.6
1910	380,418	177,982	46.8
1911	518,215	222,549	42.9
1912	615,292	282,030	45.8
1913	611,924	303,734	49.6
1914	633,805	330,467	52.1
1915	384,174	180,100	46.9
1916	240,807	111,042	46.1
1917	146,379	80,102	54.7
1918	193,268	98,683	51.1
1919	216,231	92,709	42.9
1920	428,062	139,747	32.6
1921	426,031	178,313	41.9
1922	345,384	146,672	42.5
1923	200,586	119,136	59.4
1924	216,745	139,956	64.6

^aCompiled from the annual reports of the Commissioner General of Immigration, U. S. Bureau of Immigration.

¹However, our study of the depression of 1908, in Chapter V, suggested that the effect of that depression was most marked upon net migration when the temporary element was included.

Prior to 1914, it will be noted, the ratio of nonemigrants to the total fluctuated within the narrow range of 42.9 to 49.6 per cent; and after 1914, shows no striking changes except a general increase during the war period, and a sharp decline in 1920, followed in 1923 and 1924 by a marked increase. Probably the 1920 decline may be attributed to the fact that the preceding years had not been favorable to the arrival of large numbers of temporary immigrants and, consequently, most of those who made up the rising tide of emigration in 1920 were aliens who had established a relatively permanent residence in the United States and were consequently classified as emigrants rather than nonemigrants if they were leaving for a permanent sojourn abroad. In 1923 and 1924 there is a rise in the proportion of nonemigrants, due, in part at least, to the fact that certain classes of temporary emigrants are not subject to the quota limit law and hence pass in and out of the country in much the same volume as before the law was passed.

Graphic Comparison of Departing Aliens, by Sex and Permanency of Migration.

As in the case of all alien departures, there is much general similarity observed in the cyclical fluctuations when outgoing emigrants and nonemigrants are classified by sex. The fluctuations in the annual data for total, male, and female emigrants, respectively, and for total, male, and female nonemigrants, respectively, are shown in Chart 28, which, like most of the charts in this chapter, is a "rate-of-change" chart, appropriate for comparison of relative rates of change but not capable of being used for comparison of the actual numbers involved. The reader who is interested in the actual number of emigrants of the given type should turn to Table 38, which contains the data from which this chart is plotted.

While the six curves in Chart 28 show a pronounced general resemblance, there are noteworthy differences in detail.

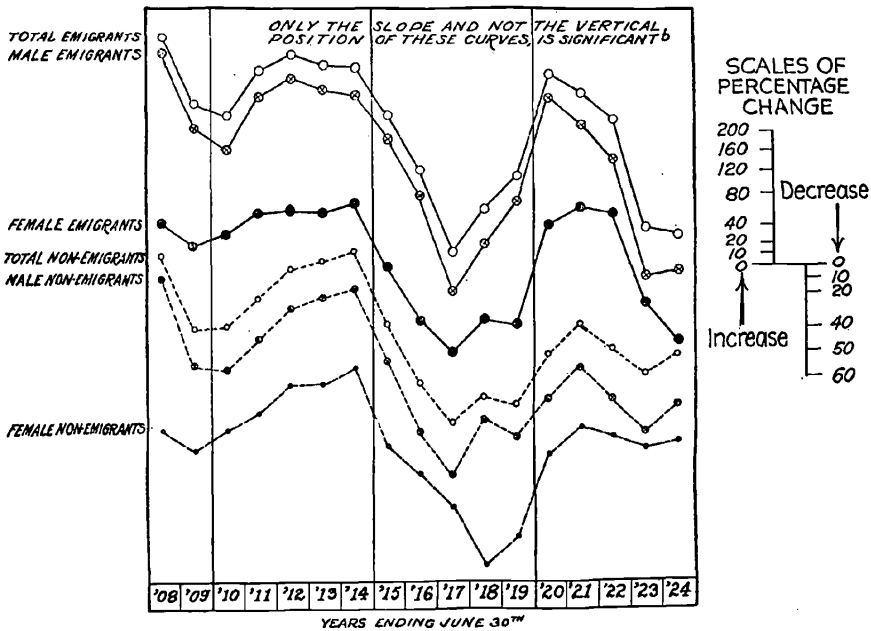
Emigrants and Nonemigrants.

In the comparison between emigrants and nonemigrants in Chart 28 we again find that, although the fluctuations in the nonemigrant element are somewhat less violent, there are no persistent marked differences between the permanent and temporary elements. The male nonemigrant curve is quite similar to the emigrant curve, except that it reaches a peak in 1914 as compared with 1912 for emigrants, shows a spurt in 1918, reaches a peak in 1921 as compared

with 1920 for male emigrants, and does not decline so much after restriction becomes effective. The 1918 spurt is largely due to the inclusion in the number of nonemigrants of thousands of Chinese in transit across the United States for work behind the battle lines in France.

CHART 28

RELATIVE FLUCTUATIONS IN NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS AND NON-EMIGRANTS, CLASSIFIED BY SEX: 1908-1924.



^aNumerical data in Table 38.

^bFor a more complete discussion of the method of constructing the above chart, see footnote (b) to Chart 27.

The fluctuations in the number of emigrant and nonemigrant females, respectively, are also not markedly dissimilar, except that when immigration restriction became effective the accompanying decline in departures was more pronounced in the emigrant curve.

TABLE 38.—NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS AND NONEMIGRANTS, BY SEX,
1908-1924^a

Thousands of persons

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH	EMIGRANTS			NON-EMIGRANTS		
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
1908	395	343	52	320	266	54
1909	226	183 ^b	43 ^b	175	129	45
1910	202	155	48	178	125	53
1911	296	239	57	223	161	61
1912	333	276	57	282	205	77
1913	308	252	56	304	226	78
1914	303	242	61	330	241	89
1915	204	168	36	180	134	46
1916	130	107	23	111	74	37
1917	66	48	18	80	52	28
1918	95	71	23	99	82	17
1919	124	101	22	93	71	22
1920	288	238	51	140	97	43
1921	248	189	59	178	125	53
1922	199	143	55	147	97	49
1923	81	55	27	119	74	45
1924	77	57	19	140	93	47

^aFrom the annual reports of the U. S. Commissioner General of Immigration and the Statistical Abstract of the United States.

^bEstimated on the assumption that the sex distribution of about 30,000 emigrants via the Canadian border, for whom sex is not known, is the same as that among the 196,000 emigrants for whom sex is known.

RELATIVE CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS IN MALE AND FEMALE MIGRATION

Immigration by Sex.

In periods of industrial boom the proportion of males among the immigrants is high; in periods of depression it is low. This is as would be expected, for in a smaller proportion of cases is employment the immediate objective of female immigration and hence the time of this immigration is less dependent upon the current condition of industry than is the immigration of males. This greater susceptibility of male immigration to the state of employment is indicated in Chart 3, which appears in Chapter II, page 38. Upon examination of this chart, it will be noted that in 1885, 1894-1895, 1904, 1908, and 1922 (fiscal years), all of which were in depression periods, the proportion of males to females was appreciably smaller than in the preceding and following years.

This tendency may also be illustrated by the accompanying

table, showing the percentage decline⁵ in the depression years ending June 30, 1904, 1908, 1911, and 1922, respectively, as compared with the number of arrivals in the relatively high years immediately preceding.

Table 39

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN DEPRESSION YEARS

Year ending June 30	Male immigration	Female immigration
1904	-10.4	+ 8.1
1908	-45.5	-22.3
1911	-22.6	+ 1.0
1922	-66.7	-55.1

In 1904 and 1911, the immigration of females even increased slightly, and in each of the other two depression years the decrease was less than that in male immigration of the corresponding period.

The greater stability of the movement of incoming alien females is further illustrated in Chart 27, on an earlier page in this chapter. The fluctuations in neither "female immigrants" nor "female non-immigrants" are as decided as the corresponding fluctuations in the number of arriving male aliens. This fact is particularly noticeable prior to the war.

Emigration by Sex.

The number of outgoing females is somewhat less variable than that of males. For example, in 1909, when industrial conditions in the United States were improving, the decline in the number of departing females is relatively smaller; likewise in 1917, and again in 1921 and 1922.

The less pronounced movement of female emigration is illustrated by the curves in Chart 28, on page 143. All the curves—male and female emigrant and male and female nonemigrant—fell sharply during the war, but in both the pre-war and post-war periods, the fluctuations in female departures are somewhat less violent than those of male departures. There are exceptions to this tendency, such as the decline in "emigrant" females in 1924.

Inasmuch as ordinarily there are no marked differences in direction in the fluctuations of the emigration of the sexes, and as males are numerically the larger element in the total, for both emigrants and nonemigrants the curves for the combined numbers of males and females closely resemble the curves for males alone, although their fluctuations are toned down slightly by the lesser fluctuations of the female element.

OCCUPATIONAL COMPARISONS

That the wage-earning element in migration is most susceptible to depressions in this country may be illustrated by the fact that in severe depression years the ratio of laborers (farm laborers plus general laborers) to total immigration decreases, while the "no occupation" group becomes a larger fraction of the total. The fiscal years 1904, 1908, 1911, 1914, and 1922 correspond with industrial depressions, and in each one of these years, as shown in Table 40, the "laborers" group, in terms of percentages of the total, decreases relatively and the "no occupation" group increases.

TABLE 40.—THE EFFECT OF DEPRESSIONS UPON THE OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS^a

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30	PER CENT OF TOTAL IMMIGRATION	
	LABORERS AND FARM LABORERS	NO OCCUPATION
1902	49.8	23.6
1903	46.5	23.3
1904 ^b	36.4	26.4
1905	41.9	22.6
1906	42.3	25.9
1907	47.8	23.7
1908 ^b	36.4	31.0
1909	46.0	29.4
1910	48.3	25.0
1911 ^b	37.8	28.0
1912	38.2	27.6
1913	45.2	24.8
1914 ^b	42.2	26.3
.		
1920	22.6	40.3
1921	24.0	37.4
1922 ^b	14.0	42.3
1923	20.9	36.6
1924	19.2	39.3

^aComputed from statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Immigration.

^bDepression years.

^cThe war period is omitted.

Comparison between the cyclical fluctuations in the immigration of various occupational groups may also be made by means of the relative decline in depression years, as in the accompanying summary in Table 41.

CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS IN MIGRATION 147

TABLE 41.—RELATIVE DECLINE IN DEPRESSION YEARS OF THE IMMIGRATION OF SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

OCCUPATION OF IMMIGRANTS	PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM THE PRECEDING YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH			
	1904	1908	1911	1922
Unskilled (general and farm laborers)	-25.6	-53.7	-34.0	-77.6
Servants	+13.2	-26.0	+10.9	-56.5
Professional	+89.5	-12.1	+16.5	-24.9
Skilled	+22.1	-35.0	+7.4	-60.9
No occupation	+7.5	-20.4	-5.4	-56.5

In these four depression years, including both mild and severe employment slumps, the greatest drop in each case is evidenced in the number of unskilled workers, while the other groups in some instances even show an increase.

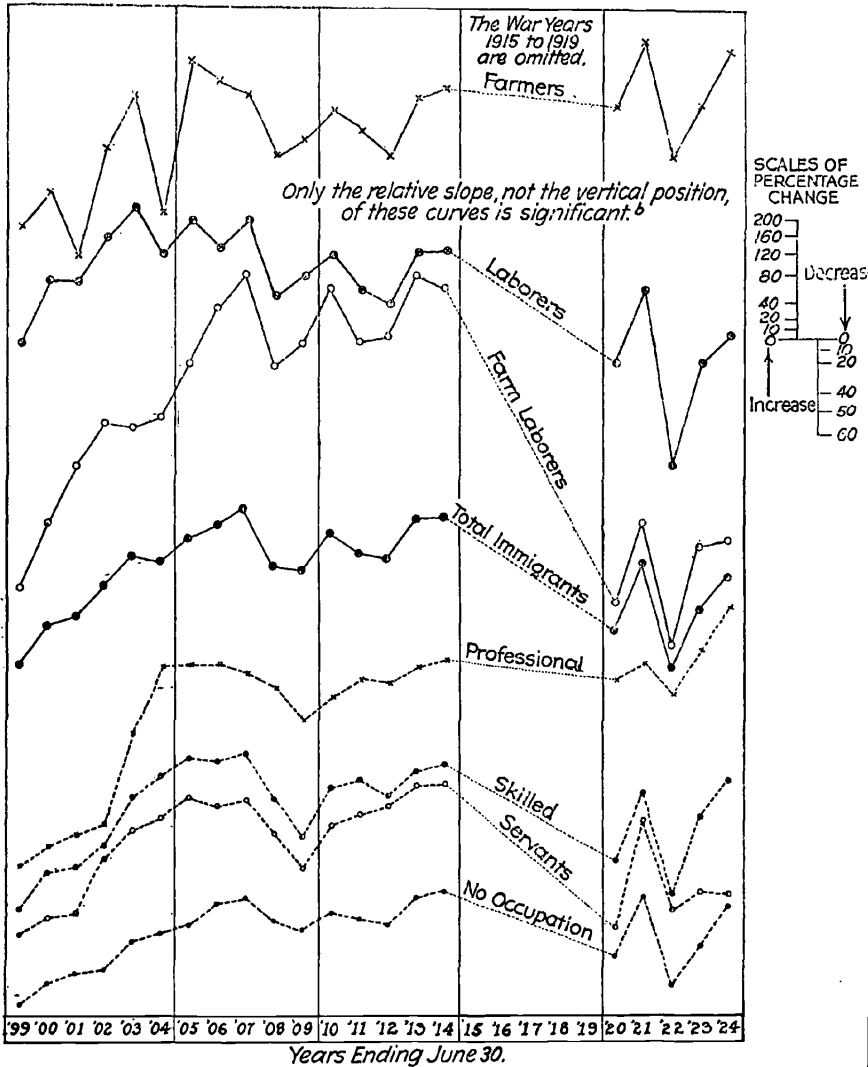
A more complete picture of the relative fluctuations in the several occupational groups is given in Chart 29, covering the fiscal years 1899 to 1914 and 1920 to 1924.

The effect of the minor depressions of 1901, 1904, 1911, and 1914 are evidenced in most of the occupational groups by a decline, or at least a slackening of the rate of increase; all series declined sharply in 1908 and some series continued this decline in 1909; all series rose in the boom of 1913. After the war, a strong upward movement is evident in all groups through 1919, 1920, and 1921, followed by a sharp decline in 1922, with a decided recovery in 1923 and 1924, despite the restrictive influence of the quota law.

While similarities in the movements of the several groups are more striking than differences, yet on close examination of the separate curves in Chart 29 exceptions from the general tendencies do become apparent. The "no occupation" and professional groups evidence relatively less complete and less prompt reaction to depression conditions than the other groups. For example, in 1908 these groups decline, but not so much as the general decline, and they continue to decline in 1909. The skilled and servant groups show somewhat greater responsiveness than the two just mentioned, but also do not reach bottom until 1909. The farm laborers, general laborers, and farmers appear to move more nearly in accord with industrial ups and downs.

CHART 29

RELATIVE FLUCTUATIONS IN IMMIGRATION, BY OCCUPATION:
1899-1924.



^aNumerical data in Table 42.

^bFor a more complete discussion of the method of constructing the above chart, see footnote (b) to Chart 27.

CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS IN MIGRATION 149

TABLE 42.—NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS, BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS
1899-1924*

Thousands of persons

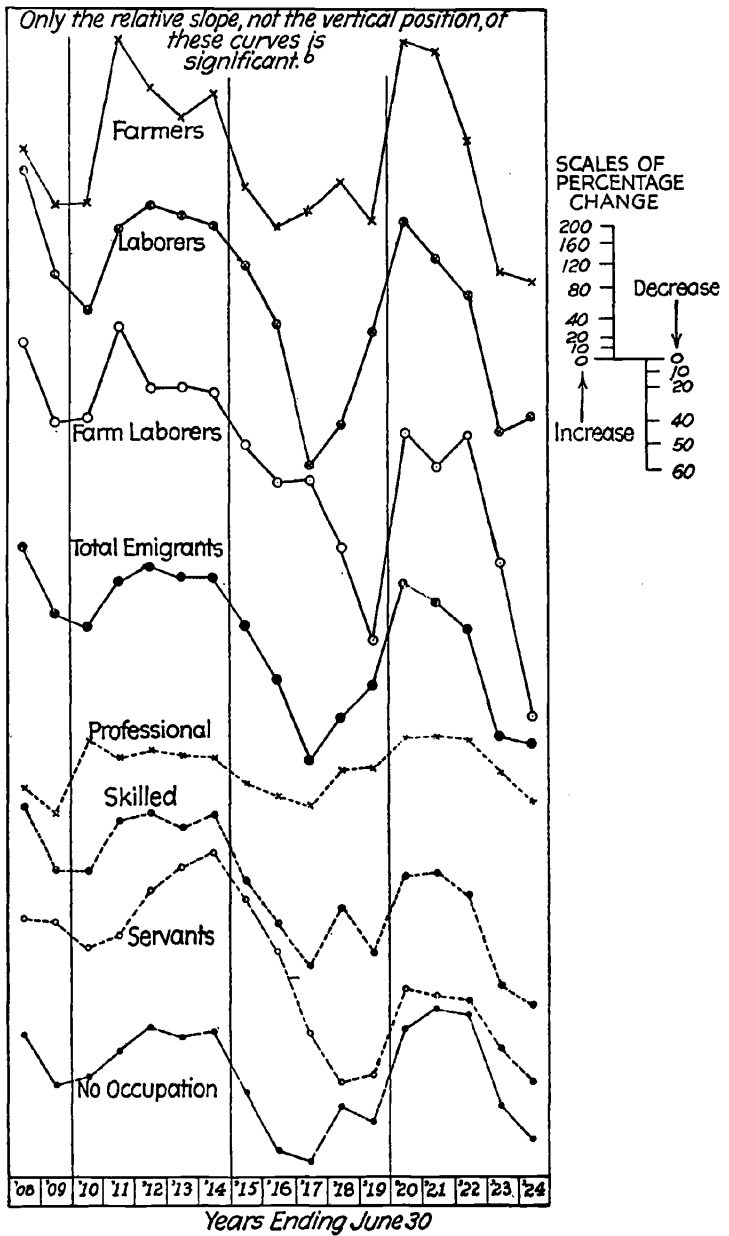
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30	TOTAL IMMI- GRANT ALIENS	LABOR- ERS	FARM LABOR- ERS	FARM- ERS	SER- VANTS	SKILLED	PROFES- SIONAL	No OC- CUPATION
1899	311.7	92.0	17.3	4.0	34.1	44.0	2.0	109.4
1900	448.6	163.5	31.9	5.4	40.3	61.4	2.4	134.9
1901	487.9	161.9	54.8	3.0	42.0	64.5	2.7	148.7
1902	648.7	242.7	80.6	8.2	69.9	79.8	2.9	153.2
1903	857.0	320.6	77.5	13.4	92.7	124.7	7.0	199.7
1904	812.9	210.4	85.8	4.5	104.9	152.2	13.3	214.7
1905	1,026.5	287.4	142.2	18.5	125.5	180.1	13.6	232.0
1906	1,100.7	226.3	239.1	15.3	116.0	177.1	13.8	285.5
1907	1,285.3	291.1	323.9	13.5	121.6	190.3	12.6	304.7
1908	782.9	146.1	138.8	7.7	89.9	123.6	11.1	242.7
1909	751.8	174.8	171.3	8.9	64.6	87.2	8.1	221.3
1910	1,041.6	214.3	288.7	11.8	96.7	138.6	10.3	260.0
1911	878.6	156.0	176.0	9.7	107.2	148.9	12.0	246.0
1912	838.2	135.7	184.2	7.7	116.5	127.0	11.7	231.1
1913	1,197.9	221.0	320.1	13.2	140.2	160.1	13.5	297.2
1914	1,218.5	226.4	288.1	14.4	144.4	173.2	14.6	320.2
1915	326.7	48.4	24.7	6.5	39.8	55.6	12.3	116.9
1916	298.8	55.8	26.2	6.8	29.3	45.5	9.8	104.8
1917	295.4	51.1	22.3	7.8	31.9	48.8	8.4	104.4
1918	110.6	14.7	4.5	2.6	7.8	21.6	4.6	45.0
1919	141.1	18.3	4.4	3.9	6.3	27.5	6.3	58.3
1920	430.0	81.7	15.3	12.2	37.2	70.0	12.4	173.1
1921	805.2	160.6	32.4	22.3	102.5	131.8	14.6	301.1
1922	309.6	32.7	10.5	7.7	44.5	51.6	11.0	131.0
1923	522.9	83.6	25.9	12.5	52.2	106.2	16.5	191.6
1924	706.9	108.0	27.5	20.3	51.7	150.7	24.8	277.9

*Compiled from the annual reports of the Commissioner General of Immigration, U. S. Bureau of Immigration.

Emigration of Various Occupational Groups.

A study of the fluctuations in the number of emigrants of the principal occupation groups (Chart 30) leads to conclusions similar to those obtained from the study of immigration. On the whole, the emigrant groups of laborers and farmers show the most marked tendency to be large in depression years and low in boom years, though the differences are not completely uniform or very striking. The professional group shows relatively the least adjustment to industrial conditions.

CHART 30
 RELATIVE FLUCTUATIONS IN EMIGRATION, BY OCCUPATION:
 1908-1924.



^aNumerical data in Table 43.

^bFor a more complete discussion of the method of constructing the above chart, see footnote (b) to Chart 27.

CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS IN MIGRATION 151

That the volume of emigration, like that of immigration, of unskilled laborers is more dependent upon industrial conditions than is the "no occupation" group is further indicated by comparing the fluctuations in the monthly data for these two series corrected for seasonal variation (Chart 31). The curve for the "no occupation" group follows a fairly steady course, while that for the unskilled element shows an erratic tendency. The depression of 1911, for

TABLE 43.—NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS, BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS
1908-1924^a

Thousands of persons

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30	TOTAL EMI- GRANT ALIENS	LABOR- ERS	FARM LABOR- ERS	FARM- ERS	SER- VANTS	SKILLED	PROFES- SIONAL	NO OCCU- PATION
1908	395.1	279.7	5.7	4.7	10.6	37.8	2.2	46.6
1909	225.8	118.9	3.0	3.0	10.2	21.9	1.8	30.5
1910	202.4	89.4	3.1	3.0	8.3	21.6	3.3	32.5
1911	295.7	174.0	6.5	11.6	9.2	33.5	2.9	40.4
1912	333.3	209.3	4.0	7.8	13.4	35.9	3.1	49.5
1913	308.2	191.6	3.9	6.1	16.2	31.6	2.9	45.4
1914	303.3	176.6	3.8	7.4	18.2	35.2	2.9	47.8
1915	204.1	127.9	2.5	3.4	12.5	20.1	2.3	28.5
1916	129.8	78.6	1.8	2.5	8.0	13.9	2.1	17.4
1917	66.3	24.8	1.9	2.8	4.0	9.8	1.9	15.9
1918	94.6	34.6	1.1	3.6	2.7	15.9	2.6	25.1
1919	123.5	74.1	0.5	2.6	2.8	11.0	2.6	22.2
1920	288.3	183.8	2.8	11.3	5.8	20.8	3.4	48.4
1921	247.7	135.2	2.1	10.5	5.5	21.5	3.4	57.7
1922	198.7	100.1	2.7	5.0	5.2	18.0	3.3	54.9
1923	81.4	32.9	0.9	1.7	3.5	8.3	2.5	25.2
1924	76.8	37.3	0.3	1.6	2.7	7.1	2.0	19.2

^aCompiled from the annual reports of the U. S. Commissioner General of Immigration.

example, is marked by a sharp rise in the emigration of unskilled laborers.

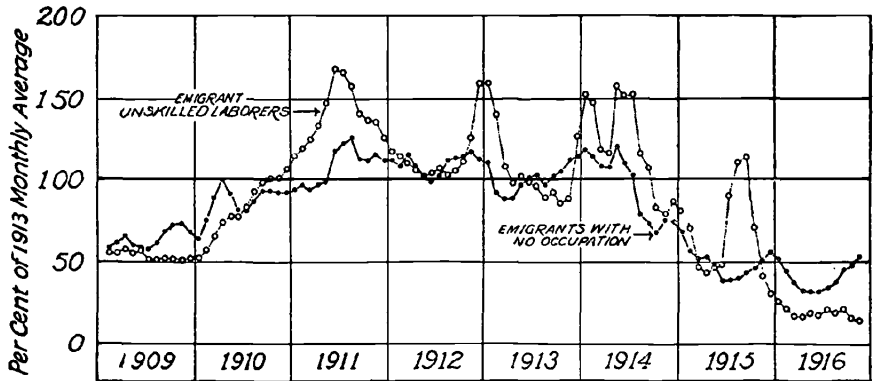
The post-war emigration movement is peculiar in several respects. In the prosperous year 1920, emigration, ordinarily at a low ebb in boom periods, reached the peak in all groups except the skilled classes. This large emigration is probably in part at least due to the previous interference of war and early post-war conditions with the normal emigrant movement. Then, in 1921 and 1922, despite depression in industry, emigration declines, this decline becoming even more decided in 1923 and 1924. The primary reasons for the

failure of emigration to increase markedly in this depression period are probably the unsettled political and economic conditions in Europe and the anticipation of the effect of restrictive immigration laws in making it more difficult for those who left to return later.

CHART 31

SHOWING THE GREATER CYCLICAL FLUCTUATIONS IN THE EMIGRATION OF UNSKILLED LABORERS AS COMPARED WITH EMIGRANTS HAVING NO OCCUPATION.

Three-month moving average of index numbers, corrected for seasonal variation, with 1913 monthly average = 100



•Computed from monthly statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Immigration.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Briefly summarized, the evidence submitted in this chapter indicates that with reference to the degree to which they are affected by cyclical movements in industry, male migration is more susceptible than female; the immigrant and emigrant are somewhat more susceptible than the nonimmigrant and nonemigrant groups; and the unskilled immigrant and emigrant respond to industrial conditions more readily than the skilled, professional, and "no occupation" groups.

Further indications of the relative responsiveness to industrial conditions of these several elements in migration will appear in the chapter on Seasonal Movements, and the discussion of the relative cyclical fluctuations of immigrants of various races and from various countries appears in the following chapter.